

Hafa Adai!

Former DEQ director Masga is CUC's new manager for oil. **PAGE 5**

Lawmakers raise Precinct 3 priorities with Executive Branch. **PAGE 6**

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Zero Chinese arrivals seen



From left, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness program manager B.J. San Nicolas, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Chris Tenorio and CNMI Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas preside over the Coronavirus Mitigation meeting organized by the Marianas Visitor's Authority yesterday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

BEA CABRERA

RELATED NEWS

■ China virus outbreak rams global tourism, costing billions.

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■ China counts 106 virus deaths as US, others move to evacuate.

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■ Countries evaluate evacuation of citizens in virus epicenter.

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By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

» CNMI projected to lose over 40K Chinese tourists

In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak that started in Wuhan, China, the CNMI expects to see a steep decline in the number of Chinese tourists for the rest of the fiscal year, with a loss estimated at over 40,000 tourists.

At a coronavirus mitigation conference yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall,

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Thomas Kim showed in a PowerPoint presenta-

tion that MVA had projected to receive 47,467 visitors from China this year. But, because of the outbreak, this would be zeroed out.

In a later interview with Kim, he said that MVA projects zero Chinese tourist arrivals starting February until the end of the fiscal year, which means a loss of about 47,467 Chinese tourists.

Kim explained that the zero arrivals that MVA is expecting from the China market is brought about by a

See ZERO on Page 4

Only Mariana crow outside Micronesia dies



An elderly 25-year-old male Mariana crow named Clint was humanely euthanized at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute last Jan. 14. Clint was the only Mariana crow living outside of Rota in the CNMI—the only place where the birds are now found in the wild.

The average life span for a Mariana crow is unknown but suspected to be around 14 years.

During the past two weeks Clint experienced some weight loss, but

See CROW on Page 4

Clint, the only Mariana crow living outside of Rota in the Mariana Islands, at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in 2013. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carter again inspects CUC power plants' projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

for U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter, he again inspected yesterday the projects being handled by construction com-

pany Gilbane Federal at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plants in Puerto Rico and Lower Base.

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As what has become standard practice

INSIDE



NATION

Senators face pressure to have John Bolton testify at President Trump's impeachment trial.

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FOCUS

Survivors of the Auschwitz death camp mark the 75th anniversary of its liberation.

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LIFE & STYLE

Mimi Haley testifies how Harvey Weinstein pushed her onto a bed and raped her.

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Judicial conference focuses on 'best practices' in trials



Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido serves as the master of ceremony during Monday's kickoff of the three-day Pacific Judicial Conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Carbullido chairs the Pacific Judicial Council's Education Committee.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido underscored Monday the importance of the two-and-a-half days of the Pacific Judicial Conference on Saipan, saying it provides a unique opportunity for trial lawyers who don't have to spend the money to go to the U.S. mainland for a trial practice seminar.

"We brought it to Saipan," said Carbullido in an interview at the conference's kickoff at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Carbullido, who chairs PJC's Education Committee, hopes for every lawyer on

Saipan who is interested in trial practice to take advantage of the seminar.

He noted that 10 fellows from the American College of Trial Lawyers are very experienced lawyers who want to share their knowledge and experience of how to improve skills as a trial lawyer.

"And when you do that, you benefit your client. You benefit the community. You provide better legal representation. So it would be an excellent opportunity for lawyers and, ultimately, clients will benefit," Carbullido said.

The speakers are retired U.S. District of Montana magistrate judge Keith Strong; Richard S. Glaser Jr. from North Carolina; Cathy Fleming from New York, New York; Bruce Maloy from Georgia; Brian O'Neill from Minneapolis; Harold McEhlhinny from San Francisco, California; Fourth District Court of Montana Judge Karen S. Townsend; Michael D. Schwartz of Los Angeles, California; Corrie Yackulic from Seattle; and Charles B. Gibbons from Pittsburg.

Carbullido said the 10 are here as a result of PJC partnering with the American College of Trial Lawyers, an association of trial lawyers in the United States and Canada.

Carbullido said the 10, whom he described as "very accomplished lawyers across the United States," will be making presentations on the various aspects of trial work, with a focus on best practices of being a trial lawyer for various types of trial work.

Over 60 lawyers and over 40 judicial officers—judges and justices—signed up to participate. The participants are from across Micronesia—the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap.

See JUDICIAL on Page 4

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US gov suit vs construction company over OSHA violations dismissed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Monday the U.S. government's lawsuit against a construction company that seeks to collect the \$38,489 civil penalties that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration assessed against the company for alleged OSHA violations in 2013 and 2016.

Manglona dismissed the U.S. government's lawsuit against Northpac Corp. after both parties settled the matter.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Wessling moved for the voluntary dismissal of the case as the terms of their settlement deal with Northpac Corp. have been satisfied.

Last August, attorney Joaquin DLG. Torres, counsel for Northpac Corp., Northpac Corp. general manager Miguel

Cruz Jr., and Wessling informed the court that the par-

ties have reached a settlement. Under the settlement,

Northpac will pay \$27,894.43 for the first OSHA inspection

and \$8,537.90 for the other OSHA inspection, for a total

of \$36,432.33, within 90 days. (Ferdie de la Torre)

CPA allays concerns at Rota airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority assured yesterday that the flight service antenna at the Rota International Airport is fully functional, and it allayed public concerns about the airport's flight service radio and runway lighting.

In a statement yesterday, CPA said it is providing updates about the airport to alleviate concerns.

The statement said: "The [airport's] flight service antenna was damaged by Typhoon Hagibis in October 2019. After the typhoon, CPA sought professional assistance to identify the specific issues and repairs needed for the flight service antenna. Once the issues and repairs were identified, CPA immediately initiated its procurement process to receive the needed parts. The parts have been installed, and the system is now fully functional.

"In regard to the runway lighting, CPA has executed a purchase order for the constant current regulator, which is an item needed to resolve the lighting issue. CPA is currently waiting for that item to arrive. CPA notes that nighttime medical evacuations are still possible at the Rota International Airport via helicopter.

"CPA appreciates the public's patience and understanding as it resolves the issue with Rota International Airport's runway lighting." (PR)

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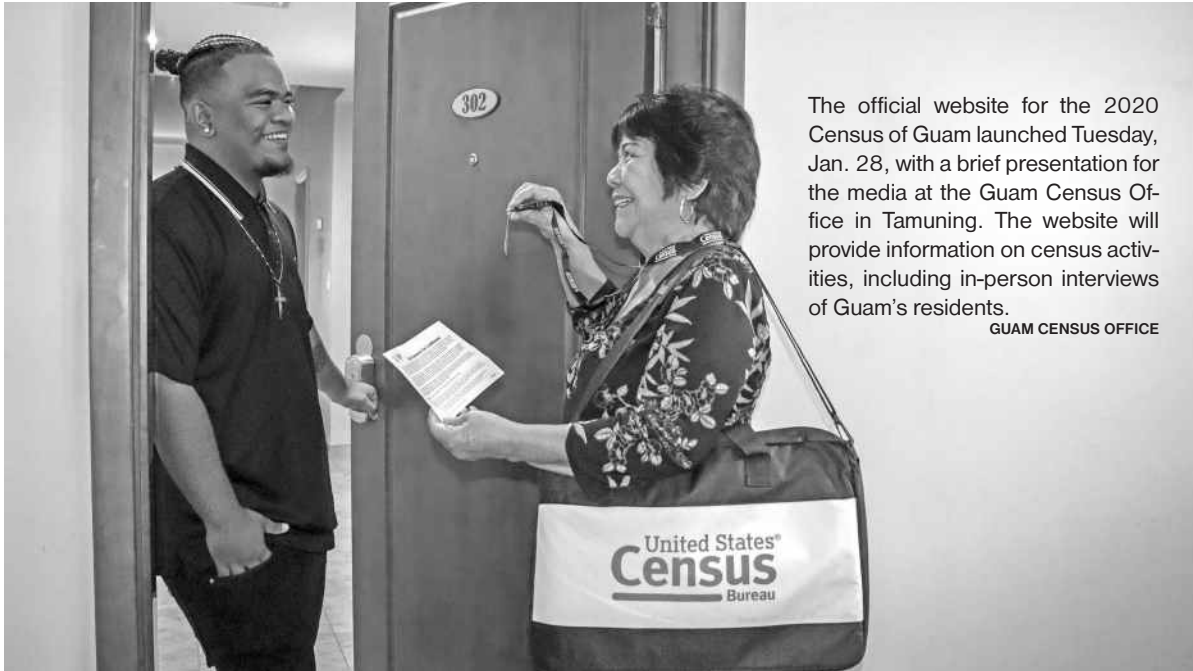
2020 Census of Guam launches website

TAMUNING, Guam—The official website for the 2020 Census of

Guam was launched yesterday, Jan. 28, at the Guam Census Office in

Tamuning.

The website will provide informa-



The official website for the 2020 Census of Guam launched Tuesday, Jan. 28, with a brief presentation for the media at the Guam Census Office in Tamuning. The website will provide information on census activities, including in-person interviews of Guam's residents.

GUAM CENSUS OFFICE

tion on the upcoming census as well as links to social media, statistics, and downloadable resources provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census management gave an overview of the website's features and talked about upcoming data collection activities, as the launch comes just ahead of the Feb. 3 start of Address Listing. During this monthlong operation, 2020 Census of Guam workers will be locating and listing houses, apartments, shelters, and other residences throughout the island.

"The new website will allow visitors to learn about the work we're doing here and why it's so important for Guam," said Bernadine Gines,

manager of the Guam Census Office. "It outlines what census workers will be doing out in the community, addresses some of the more frequently asked questions we've been getting, and will give regular updates on the progress we're making as we conduct this year's census."

Flame Tree Freedom Center Inc., working for Galaide Group, designed and built the website under the direction of the Guam Census Office.

The 2020 Census of Guam is the once-in-a-decade population count of our island, providing a snapshot of our growing and diverse community. Responses to the 2020 Census of Guam will help to direct federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services. (PR)

ZERO

From Page 1

notice from Chinese authorities—effective immediately—instructing Chinese airlines to ban outbound travel from China. The notice is being looked as a means to contain the virus, called 2019-nCoV, within China, where the virus is believed to have originated from.

"The Chinese authorities have sent out a notice to Chinese [airlines] encouraging them to ban outbound travels from China. The notice was sent out on Jan. 26 from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China," said Kim.

Kim said that this loss would tremendously affect the CNMI's economy since China is one of the CNMI's largest tourist markets.

"It's a virus outbreak so we're definitely [scared]. We have to be scared. This is the first time we're experiencing this," he said.

Although the steep plummet in the CNMI's tourism-based economy is worrisome, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

said "nothing can compensate for the health" of CNMI residents, which he said is his administration's top priority.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista later echoed Torres: "We understand the critical importance of how this threat will affect our economy. Just like the CW-1 issue, this is of high consideration. ... The drop of Chinese tourists in the CNMI as early as now will impact our fiscal year 2021," he said.

"We are currently in meetings with the Department of Finance to discuss the budget... and the push to increase visitors from Japan and Korea and, ultimately, to diversify our market that will be beneficial to the CNMI long term and for the viability of our economy," he added.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh said the effect of this decrease on hotels that currently enjoy 100% occupancy will be grave.

"... As for manpower, just because our hotels have a decrease of guests does not mean we have to cut the working hours of our employ-

ees, specifically the CW-1 workers, because we abide by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor," she said.

"There is a provision that we cannot cut the working hours of the workers due to decrease in business except by reason of termination. Hotel occupancy and operations are affected. No one knows how long this will go on and we are trying to think of strategies on how to alter the impact," she added.

With Chinese tourists temporarily out of the picture, Korea remains the CNMI's largest tourism market, with a projected arrival of 303,754 tourists in fiscal year 2020.

Kim said MVA would continue to promote the CNMI in various media platforms as a coronavirus-free destination.

"As I mentioned, we will continue to target online media platforms, including TV, to broadcast that our destination is a safe place to travel to and to ensure the Chinese citizens that there has been no cases found here in the CNMI," he said. (With Bea Cabrera)



JUDICIAL INSPECTION

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter, third from left, inspects the four units of oil/water separators at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan yesterday. Also in the photo, to Carter's left, are CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho and CUC technical manager for oil Ray S. Masga. To Carter's right are Gilbane Federal principal Daryl Greenway and CUC project coordinator Venugopal Prabhakara. Carter also inspected the two new fuel tanks at Power Plant 4 and other projects at CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CROW

From Page 1

a sudden decline in his health, causing him to become lethargic and lose his appetite, started on Jan. 13. Despite treatment with fluids and anti-inflammatory drugs, his condition continued to rapidly decline overnight, and animal care staff made the difficult decision to euthanize him. A final pathology report will provide more information in the coming weeks. Following a visual necropsy exam, Clint's body will be sent to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History to be preserved by experts.

Clint moved to SCBI in 1995 as part of a recovery effort to save the species from extinction. In 1997 all Mariana crows living on the U.S. mainland were moved to Guam due to the threat from West Nile Virus. Corvids, which are birds that include crows and ravens, are extremely susceptible to West Nile Virus. Due to strict biosecurity precautions and requirements, Clint could not return to the Marianas, though he had been vaccinated against the virus.

After Clint's companion, Russell, died in 2010, Clint began seeking out more interaction with his keepers and other staff. As a result, he imprinted on humans. Clint enjoyed multiple visits every day from staff, interns, volunteers, and students who stopped by his outdoor enclosure. He was well known at SCBI for his playfulness, and would often bring sticks, leaves, or his favorite enrichment toys to the mesh of his enclosure for visitors to see.

The Mariana crow is a critically en-

dangered species endemic to Guam and Rota and is the only member of the corvid family in Micronesia. Invasive brown tree snakes, accidentally introduced to Guam during the 1950s, have hunted Mariana crows and many other birds, bats and reptiles in Guam to extinction. The last remaining 150 Mariana crows now live only on Rota, which is free of brown tree snakes. The Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources works with partners around the world, including SCBI, to repopulate Mariana crows. In 2018, San Diego Zoo Global released five Mariana crows back to the wild on Rota.

The CNMI includes the 14 northernmost islands in the Mariana archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. Guam, the southernmost island in the chain, is a separate U.S. territory.

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute specializes in species management, propagation, research and reintroduction of birds native to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

SCBI plays a leading role in the Smithsonian's global efforts to save wildlife species from extinction and train future generations of conservationists. SCBI spearheads research programs at its headquarters in Front Royal, Va., the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and at field research stations and training sites worldwide. SCBI scientists tackle some of today's most complex conservation challenges by applying and sharing what they learn about animal behavior and reproduction, ecology, genetics, migration and conservation sustainability. (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu>)

JUDICIAL

From Page 2

"It's a very well-supported training that they are hoping to conduct in the next two and a half days," Carbullido said.

He said he and CNMI Associate Justice John A. Manglona, with the representative from the American College of Trial Lawyers, helped put together the curriculum.

"We're responsible for planning and bringing the conference to Saipan," he said.

Carbullido said the 10 presenters will allocate their time to cover about

12 topics in all.

Carbullido said they had a similar training with the same association two years ago in Guam.

He believes the CNMI Bar, as well as judicial officers and trial lawyers on Saipan and in the region, will greatly benefit from the expertise of the trial lawyers. He credits Manglona for helping him coordinate the conference on Saipan.

Monday's training was only for judges; the lawyers' training started yesterday, Tuesday.

"It's a joint session of the lawyers and the judicial officers in the next two days," he said.

Former DEQ director Masga is CUC's new manager for oil

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former Division of Environmental Quality director Ray S. Masga is the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s new technical manager for oil.

In an interview yesterday,

Masga said he resigned last November from DEQ, where he had been a director for four years. Masga worked for DEQ for 20 years.

"I want to give the young guys a chance to move up at DEQ," he said, adding that he considers his move to

CUC a challenge.

As TMO, Masga said he's been busy. He described it as a very challenging job.

The TMO position had been unfilled since Feb. 13, 2019, when Maximino Simian resigned to accept an off-island job offer.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien said in his recent report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI that CUC historically

sustains lengthy vacancies in management positions, impeding CUC's operations and compliance with stipulated federal court orders.



Masga

However, since their August 2019 conference with CUC, it has managed to fill the positions of TMO, chief engineer, and drinking water and wastewater division manager, O'Brien said.

The only remaining unfilled position is the wastewater treatment plant supervisor, O'Brien said. That position has been vacant since Febru-

ary 2019 when Richard Wasser left for an off-island job.

The lawyer said it continues to be critical that CUC retain persons who meet the Stipulated Order Number 1 qualifications and fill any vacancies in a timely manner.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues. It also restructures CUC's organization to reflect a typically functioning utility and requires that key employees possess appropriate education and experience levels.

Rota delegation recognizes 2019 Sinapalo Teacher of the Year

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

The Rota legislative delegation honored Gloria Curameng Hocog with a resolution last Jan 24, for her selection as 2019 Teacher of the Year for Sinapalo Elementary School.

"Hocog's dedication to education is not limited to the classroom as she has attended numerous professional development and leadership activities to enrich her teaching abilities for the benefit of her students," the resolution reads. "[Hocog's selection] is supported by her passion for educating and preparing her students for their future and her continued dedication to the students, faculty, administration, and parents of Sinapalo Elemen-

tary School."

Originally from the Philippines, Hocog began teaching on Rota in 2008 as a substitute teacher for Sinapalo Elementary School and Rota Junior High School.

She later worked at the Commonwealth Ports Authority for six years. In 2015, she returned to Sinapalo Elementary School as a highly qualified special education teacher.

"With this recognition, we thank Mrs. Hocog for her unwavering dedication and commitment to our students, parents and community of Rota, and we highly encourage her to keep up with her exemplary performance that she has demonstrated at our school and community," said Sen. Tere-sita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Present at the resolution

presentation were Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, Sinapalo Elementary School principal Daisy Quitugua, and all the members of the delegation.

Hocog graduated with a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy from Our Lady of Fatima University in 2001, spent three years pursuing a career in physical therapy in the Philippines, and then moved and found a home on the island of Rota.

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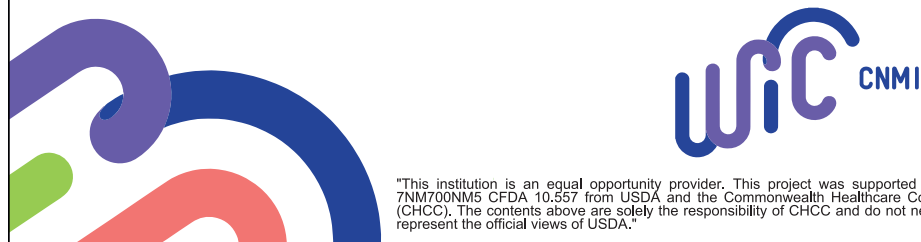
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Lawmakers raise Precinct 3 priorities with Executive Branch

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

Stressing the urgent need to rectify the constant flooding that happens in Garapan each time it rains, Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), together with his colleagues in Precinct 3, has identified this among a host of projects that have to be allocated enough funds and resolve as soon as possible.

"One of those projects that we're looking at is our San Jose Road area," Blanco said. "We know when it's flooding, our students, after they get off school and when they walk to their bus, they have to walk in on the edge of the road hugging the buildings or the gates, walk in the mud, and it's not good for their health."

The legislator also raised concerns about flood leaving standing water in neighborhoods.

"That is one thing that the community has been bringing up with us. We have conveyed to the Executive Branch that this is a project that we want going and as soon as possible," he said.

Last month, flooding in a portion of the San Jose Road created a cloud of stench that triggered the asthma of some children living in the area.

Blanco said that they have

already talked with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Public Work Secretary James Ada about several projects for Garapan.

"[During] heavy rains and when we do not open that drainage by IPI and Fiesta, all our tourists are walking in [flood] water. So those are issues that we try to address," he said.

Aside from flooding, Blanco said that there also have been discussions related to the parking concerns in Garapan, in particular the parking meters that have yet to function, which businesses in Garapan have been raising with legislators.

"If we go to Garapan, I'll be happy to pay the fee for the parking meters if I'm comfortable that I can park and not worry about getting towed or ticketed," he said. "Even the businesses, they're bringing the issue up to us."

Blanco said it is his understanding that there are three separate entities that were supposed to deal with the parking meters: one in the executive branch that is supposed to enforce, another that is supposed to maintain, and another to collect the funds. The legislator raised the possibility of amending the law to lump all these responsibilities under

one government entity.

Despite other existing challenges, such as not having enough workers, Blanco said the most important thing is

that they were able to share these concerns with the Executive Branch as Precinct 3 priority projects.

"There's a saying we need

this done yesterday. That's the message that we conveyed to the Executive Branch and I'm pleased that they're amenable to it," he said. "This is very

important, because we all have families. It's a win-win for everybody, wherever you reside. As you know, in Precinct 3, a lot of businesses are here."

Palacios heads Chamber board



BEA CABRERA

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho swears in the 2020 Saipan Chamber of Commerce officers and board members at the Business Person of the Year Gala last Saturday at the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho swore in this year's Saipan Chamber of Commerce board members and officers last Saturday at the Chamber's Business Person of the Year Gala at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

Velma Palacios, who is an IT&E-CNMI officer and was

sworn in as Chamber president for her fifth term as the group's leader, expects the year 2020 to be "another year of challenges with respect to the economy both at a national and local level."

"We are still waiting for the regulations for the NMI Workforce Act and still many questions regarding our workforce. We have the national immigration policies affecting our tourism industry and now the threat of coronavirus," she said.

Palacios, who was first elected Chamber president in 2016, said responsibility of leading the business group "feels greater because there is a different issue we face as a community every year that impacts the business community."

The other members of the

2020 SCC board of directors are Joe Guerrero of Jiang Zheng Group Inc and Naked Fish, who serve as vice president; Ty Pauling of Hyatt Regency Saipan, who is secretary; Mike Johnson of Deloitte & Touche, who is treasurer; and board members Alex Sablan of Century Insurance, Shayne Vilanueva of AON Insurance, Marcia Calvo of Calvo Insurance, Glenn of the Shack, and Janelle Pangelinan of Pacific Insurance Underwriters.

According to Palacios, among the Chamber's immediate plans are its continued partnership with the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. and working with the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the Torres administration to

get more clarity on the Northern Marianas Islands Workforce Act.

"We are looking at refining our programming to ensure that we are best serving our Chamber members with the resources we have. We have sent out surveys to our membership to see what is important to them. From their feedback, we are taking our existing programs and making sure they align with the will of the members," Palacios said.

With the installation of the Chamber board members, achieving goals and priorities are currently underway.

"I have worked with these individuals as part of the Chamber board and other capacities. ...All bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the board. I enjoy working with them and I am grateful for their energy and commitment to the Chamber and to help our business community and our islands prosper. I have every confidence we will work together to carry out the Chamber's mission," Palacios said.

She assured that the Chamber will continue to advocate for CNMI families, the community, and livelihoods by promoting and supporting the success of the private sector.

"I would also like to encourage our membership to join our committees to provide their inputs, ideas and recommendations to move this goal forward," Palacios added.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 29, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_13_U_N465_1492_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf and
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_10_U_N465_1467_ENCL-TO_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

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NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance January 30, 2020 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes from December 19th, 2019
- II. Public Comment
- III. Reports
 1. Administrator
 2. Chair
 3. Committee
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- IV. Old Business
 1. 2019 SHEFA Annual Report
- V. New Business
 1. SHEFA Board Member Nomination
 2. Spring 2020 Application Status
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Misc.
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.



The carving station highlights mouthwatering roast beef and pork.

An array of local and international dishes awaits you at the World Café Sunday Brunch from 11am to 2pm.

PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT THE WORLD CAFÉ

A love affair with food

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sunday Brunch at the World Café of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is always done right. Once you make it out of the house and arrive at the door of World Café, a warm welcome from the diligent receptionist awaits and, after some brief pleasantries, leads you immediately to your seat. You can take a table inside or at the patio and, whichever place you choose, the array of food and drinks are accessible.

The variety of food that is served from



Enjoy crab legs and other fresh seafood at the Sunday Brunch of the World Café from 11am to 2pm.

Located inside Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, the World Café Sunday Brunch is open from 11am to 2pm.

11am to 2pm feature island favorites like tuna poke, sashimi, and ceviche, to name a few, and a slew of international dishes that showcase Japanese, Chinese, American, Korean, French, and Filipino cuisines. One will not get tired of going every week because German Executive Chef Fitz makes sure that new dishes are available each Sunday.

The jumbo crab legs are a crowd pleaser. Aside from the enormous sizes, the natural sweetness of the meat inside means they are guaranteed fresh. The carving station will not disappoint as it features roast pork and beef. The tenderness of the meat and crispy skin of the roasted pork are a great combination. The roast beef is packed with flavor and meat that melts in your mouth.

People will really love the beef sukiyaki station as they can combine meat and vegetables simmered in a mixture of soy sauce, sugar and mirin. This dish is welcoming and the broth is soothing, especially after a long work week. The dumplings with fillings made with meat and vegetables are always fast to go but are immediately replenished. One cannot get enough, especially if it is paired with the sweet and spicy sauce.

Children will love pancakes prepared in front of them, where they can choose a variety of jams and syrup. The bread station is partnered with

different cuts and types of cheeses. For sweet food lovers, the dessert station carries different flavors of ice creams, an array of pastries and the famous World Café savory bread pudding with its creamy sauce.

To wash all the good food down, unlimited drinks of sparkling wine, beer, and juices are available. And while guests are enjoying the food and conversation with family or friends live music brings more life to the day as they sing the favorite hits of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Billy Holiday and, if it your birthday, expect to be serenaded by the staff.

World Café Sunday Brunch is for everyone—both locals and tourists will get their money's worth. It is ideal for families and friends to get together, recap the past week and reset for the incoming week, which is the heart of brunch.

For more information, call (670) 233-6414 or visit their website: www.fiestasaipan.com.

The restaurant can sit 240 people inside and around 60 on the outside hallway. It also has a private room that can sit 50 people for special and private celebrations. World Café Sunday Brunch is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children with access to the swimming pools inclusive of towel use.



Carter again inspects CUC power plants' projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As what has become standard practice for U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter, he again inspected yesterday the projects being handled by construction company Gilbane Federal at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plants in Puerto Rico and Lower Base.

At Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Carter first checked the installation of four oil/water separators, which is 70% complete; completion is expected this April.

» **At Power Plant 4, installation of 4-unit oil/water separators is 70% complete; 2 new fuel storage tanks installed, one more arriving today**

Gilbane Federal principal Daryl Greenway explained how the OWS work. The judge asked Greenway and other CUC officials some questions and took photo-

graphs at the project. Gilbane Federal is a California-based company that Carter selected as the Engineering and Environmental Management Company that has been tasked to oversee some stalled CUC projects.

In his recent status report to the federal court, Bradley R. O'Brien, senior attorney of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, said that Gilbane Federal is also preparing the engineering design for the Power Plants 1 and 2 OWS system for treated water discharge features. O'Brien said design is expected to be completed approximately in December 2020.

CUC's newly hired technical manager for oil, Ray S. Masga, said in an interview that there's been a lot of progress going on in the construction of the OWS unit.

The TMO said the oil/water separators would collect all high-risk contact water from different areas of the Power Plant 4. "High-risk contact water basically means that this water that's coming through are in contact with oil. So that's pretty much water that needs to be treated," he said.

Masga said the water would be actually treated through the separator systems.

"Right now, they are still doing the setup for the piping," Masga said. It's the piping that would need to channel all the high-risk contact water into one collection area before it gets into the treatment system.

Masga said the OWS units could process up to 400 gallons per minute, with each unit capable of processing 100 gal-



U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter discusses a point as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials and Gilbane Federal principal Daryl Greenway, partly hidden to Carter's right, listen during an inspection at CUC's Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

lons per minute.

"That's how much water [will be treated] if you have significant rain, everything that's [going to] go through that containment system," he said.

Rather than spilling the water right on the ground, they have to collect those and treat them before they get discharged, Masga said.

After inspecting the OWS, Carter checked the two new horizontal fuel storage tanks that have been installed at the same Power Plant 4. Each tank has the capacity to hold 20,000 gallons.

Greenway and other Gilbane Federal staff explained to Carter how the tanks work.

O'Brien stated in his report that the two tanks are in daily use and commissioning will occur in the near future.

O'Brien said the tanks will replace CUC's two highly corroded tanks that have already been removed.

A third 20,000-gallon horizontal fuel storage tank

is expected to arrive today, Wednesday, from California. Installation is expected to be completed this April.

"Just a beautiful tank sitting here, a beautiful 20,000-gallon tank sitting right here. Isn't that amazing?" Carter said.

Carter also checked other areas of Power Plant 4 and consulted Greenway and CUC officials on future projects needed at the power plant.

O'Brien said in his report that engineering design work continues for drainage control projects, including storm water run-on control, to minimize the volume of water entering the Power Plant 4 property from an adjacent hillside.

O'Brien said both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CUC are identifying future priority projects and will present recommendations to Carter.

After Power Plant 4, Carter went on to inspect power plants 1 and 2.

CUC managing director Gary P. Camacho, who was

among CUC officials who joined the inspection, disclosed in an interview that Carter inspected the power plants' new incinerators and the oil storage facility and oil containment facilities for petroleum.

Camacho said Carter wanted to see the progress that has been made since the last status conference. "He comes to visit and see that there are projects going forward," Camacho said.

Carter's inspections were part of a status conference that he has been conducting since Monday.

Projects discussed or to be tackled at the conference include installing a dual-unit incinerator system at CUC's power plants 1 and 2, improving facility drainage systems at power plants 1 and 2, and at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico.

Other projects discussed include installation of the new horizontal storage tanks at Power Plant 4 and completing the Rota Power Plant fuel filtration or "eliminator" system.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



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Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that Board Committees on Seaport Facilities and Personnel Affairs will be holding special meetings on Friday, January 31, 2020, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (October 31, 2019)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business:**
 1. Seaport Police Boat
 2. A/E design for Seaport Ramp Paving
 3. Echo Dock - Evaluation Plan
 4. Asia-Pacific Ship Investment Inc.
 5. Industrial Drive
 6. Tinian Marine Stevedore
- IV. New Business:**
 1. Rota Seaport Restroom
 2. Pacific Subsea
 3. Saipan Stevedore Lease
 4. Updated Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 20, 2019)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business:**
 1. Organizational Chart
 2. Additional staff: IT
- IV. New Business:**
 1. Employment Contract – Rota Ports Manager
 2. Employment Contract – Port of Saipan Manager
 3. Resolution for Former Board Chairman †Rex I. Palacios
 4. Updated Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

Persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.

Pete P. Reyes
Seaport Facilities Committee Chair

Joseph M. Diaz
Personnel Affairs Committee Chair



TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT "Car Rental Concessions"

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20

for CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01 CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is **December 20, 2019**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Governors of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Museum will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2020 at 10:00am** at the **NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, Saipan**. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 664-2160 or send fax to 664-2170.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Election of Officers**
- V. Executive Director Update**
- VI. Miscellaneous**
- VII. Adjournment**

Danny Aquino
Executive Director

Co-op: More students means more workers



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Saipan Southern High School Cooperative Education program students pose for a photo last Friday during the fall semester appreciation lunch at the Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's Cooperative Education program, which seeks to equip high school students with entry-level job skills, saw a low enrollment for the fall semester but is hoping to boost its numbers as a way to strengthen the local workforce.

According to Brandon Nicholas, coordinator of the PSS Cooperative Education program, this semester saw 80 students enrolling in the program on Saipan, which he describes as a little lower than targeted.

"We had around 80 students on Saipan but, in general, we had about 120 or 130 including Tinian and Rota. It's a little low but we hope to pick it up," he said.

Nicholas said the program's target goal every se-

mester is anywhere from 140 to 160 students.

Nicholas said the program is always doing its best to increase enrollment numbers because more students enrolled means more individuals entering the CNMI workforce in the near future.

"I work very closely with our teachers and our counselors to try and enroll as many students as we can because the more students that we serve, the more students we can send to the workforce, so that's always our main goal, to increase enrollment," Nicholas said.

The co-op program, according to Nicholas, seeks to help students understand the world of work and help them prepare for the workforce.

"Especially given everything that's going on now with the labor shortage that our private sector is facing, the goal

of the program is to help these students prepare for work and to help them find full-time positions in the private sector," he said.

The students participating in the program work with various companies as trainees. The company does not pay the students but the students do receive experience in the world of work. Although they are not considered employees, they still perform the duties of an employee.

Last Friday, the co-op program held its fall 2019 semester appreciation lunch for its Saipan community partners.

"It's just something we do at the end of every semester to show our appreciation to our partners for making this possible. Our partners include private sector companies, non-profits, as well as a few government agencies," he said.

on Feb. 10. Detention hearing will be this Thursday.

According to HSI special agent David West in his affidavit, a Department of Public Safety police officer encountered Deng during a traffic stop last Friday. West said that Deng presented a CNMI driver's license to the officer for identification.

DPS then contacted HSI for assistance with translation and identification.

HSI found through biometric information that Deng entered the CNMI as a tourist on March 20, 2018, and was supposed to stay only until March 29, 2018.

West said they contacted the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,

where they found out that Deng submitted a CW-1 visa, but a search revealed that he had not been issued or approved such a visa.

West said Deng admitted during their interview that he came to Saipan to work and never applied for any immigration status.

Deng said he was then working in construction but wanted a job as a taxi driver.

Deng said he contacted a person in June 2018 and paid \$1,500 to help him complete the driver's license application. Deng said it was the same person who gave him the CW-1 visa, which he submitted to BMV. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



POSITION TITLE: Hotel Manager – Saipan Vegas Resort

REPORTS TO: General Manager

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Hotel Manager is responsible for all aspects of operations at the hotel and provides support to the General Manager of Saipan Vegas. Directs and coordinates hotels activities to obtain optimum efficiency and economy of operations and maximize full potential with a balanced focus on hotels mission, guests, employees and owner's satisfaction.

HOTEL MANAGER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDES:

- Assist the General Manager in his day to day operations.
- Assigns duties to HOD's and observers' performance to ensure adherence to hotel policies and established operating procedures.
- Provides training to staff and HOD's.
- Acts as the hotels public relations director and promotes the property within the hotel industry, local community and trade associations.
- Monitor the Guest feedback on Trip advisor, OTA's etc. and hotels GSTS and RSTS surveys.
- Receives and resolved or assists the General manager in resolving guest complaints and service recovery process.
- Selects or assist in the selection of hotel staff and completes all new hire paper works.
- Review employee performance and conducts personnel actions such as disciplinary actions and terminations.
- Ensures, the accounting department, maintains accurate records including monthly profit and loss accounts and cash flows, guest floor limit, AR Ageing reports, Direct billing etc.
- Assisting General Manager during staff meetings or conducts the morning HOD meetings in the absence of General Manager.
- Adheres to all company procedures and regulations as well as standard operating procedures.
- Ensure full compliance to Hotel operating controls, SOP's, policies, procedures and service standards.
- Ensures the objectives and goals of Saipan Vegas Resort and property owners work together to achieve brand positioning and success.
- Builds owner loyalty through proactive communication, setting and managing expectations and delivering solid business results.
- Assist GM in key property issues including capital projects, customer service and refurbishment.
- Assist General Manager in wage scale surveys and ensures employee wages are followed by the company and industry salary guidelines.
- Performs daily, weekly and monthly property inspections.
- Ensures property, grounds, physical plant and work areas maintained to standard.
- Builds strong working relationships and communications with hotel staff, HOD's and other departments to ensure maximum operating effectiveness and fulfilment of special event need.
- Cover shifts in all departments as scheduled by the General Manager.
- Monitor maintenance progress and FF&E (Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment) conditions and provide status report to GM.
- Audits on par stock on all areas to make sure that all required hotel supplies are ordered and stocked in advance of need.
- Performs sudden audits on rooms and other operating areas.
- Provide effective leadership to hotel team members.
- Ensure hotel staff is provided with uniforms and name tags, and upholds property grooming standards.
- Ensures effective, timely and accurate communications flow with regards to hotel policies and procedures.
- Assist the GM in all aspects of business planning.
- Must be available 24/7 in case to respond to any guest or employee emergencies.
- Corporate client handling and take part in new client acquisition along with the sales team whenever required.
- Assisting in residential sales as and when required and development with strong sales prospects.
- Respond to audits to ensure continual improvement is achieved.
- All Other duties as assigned by the General Manager or Management.

PREREQUISITES:

Strong management skills, ability to appropriately assign or delegate work and authority to others in the accomplishment of goals. And provide coaching, advice and assistance as required. Available to work when needed, including weekends, holidays, and nights.

EDUCATION:

A university degree or diploma in hotel management or a related field with experience in opening, managing or re-positioning a hotel with clear track record, will be highly regarded or appropriate relevant hotel experience. Experience in financial accounting, personnel supervision and problem resolutions is an added advantage. Excellent computer system skills.

EXPERIENCE:

At least 3-5 years' experience in the hospitality industry, with front of house and hotel operations experience.

SALARY:

\$3,000 - \$5,000 monthly

ANTICIPATED DATE OF EMPLOYMENT:

February 1, 2020

You may submit your resume and application to Mr. Gus Noble via e-mail to: gusnoble@hotmail.com.

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An alleged overstaying tourist says he paid \$1.5K to get driver's license

Homeland Security Investigations agents arrested last week another alleged overstaying Chinese tourist who obtained a CNMI driver's license through fraud.

Fei Deng claimed that he paid \$1,500 to obtain a driver's license.

Deng was taken before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Monday after the U.S. government charged him with conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

Deng's court-appointed counsel is Steven Pixley. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government.

Preliminary hearing will be

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

China is putting the US to shame in the fight against plastic trash

Two years ago, China stopped accepting imports of most recyclable plastic and paper. Up until that point, the country had been the world's biggest importer of single-use plastic discarded by developed countries such as the United States. That move threw the global recycling market into a crisis from which it has still not recovered.

It was a rude awakening for countries trying to deal with their trash, but one that had to come sooner or later. The fact is that recycling efforts weren't making much of a dent in the ever-increasing production and sales of single-use plastic. Nor was most plastic really being recycled. Most of it—indeed, the vast amount of all the disposable plastic ever produced—was still with us, in some form: buried in landfills, loose in the landscape or filling up the oceans, rivers and lakes. And with China getting out of the market, it seemed, things would get even worse.

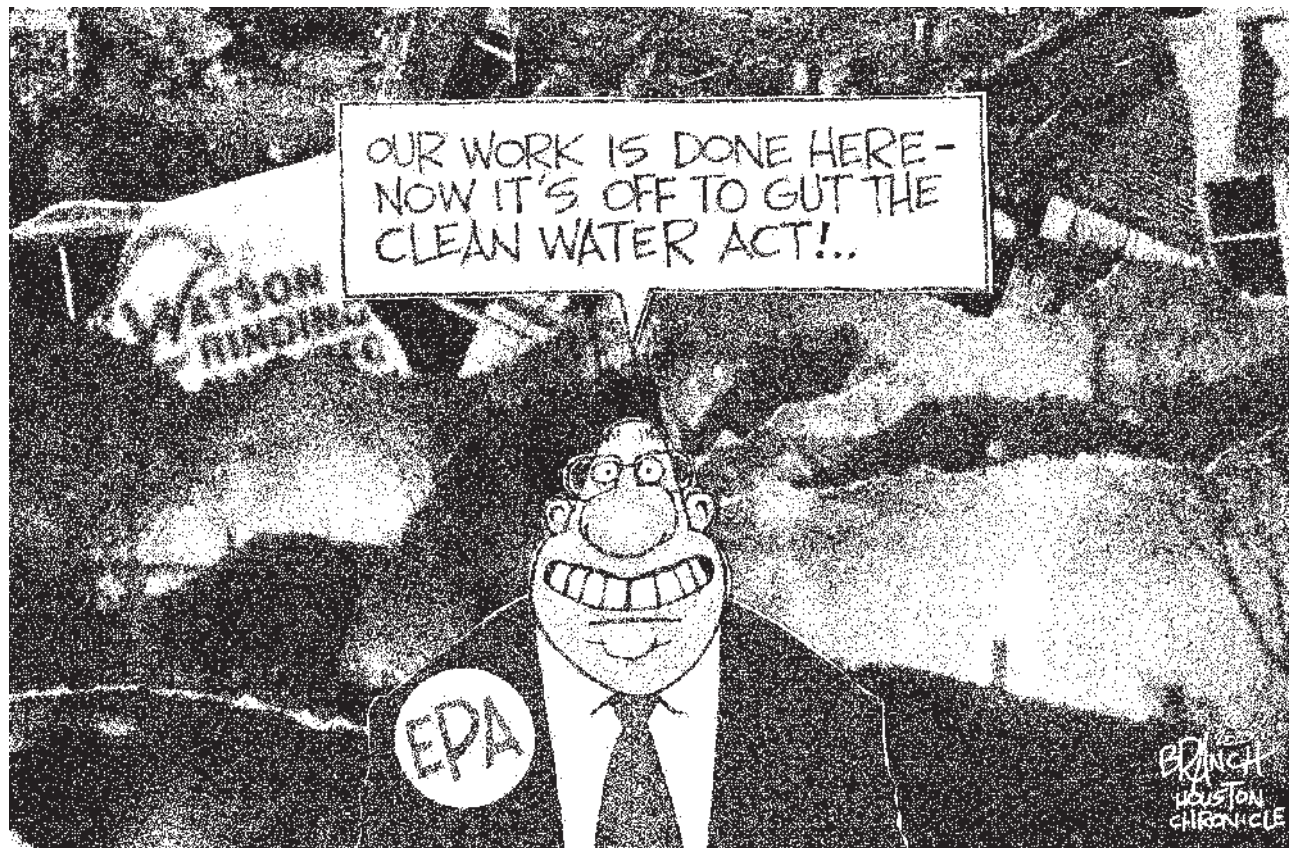
Since then, several nations across the globe have announced initiatives to reduce their use of disposable plastic. And this month, China announced what is perhaps the boldest action of all: It will stop the production and sale of all single-use plastic bags and straws and other utensils in major cities by the end of the year, and then work to cut all disposable plastic by 2025, except for bioplastic that can be composted. Even if the country doesn't reach its goal of zero plastic (a heavy lift even for an authoritarian regime), getting even halfway there would be remarkable. China is the world's largest generator of single-use plastic waste. We hope that, as part of the effort, the Chinese government will also build the infrastructure for industrial composting of bioplastics. Otherwise, the country will simply be trading one trash problem for another.

Beijing's announcement should shame the U.S., whose disposable plastic habit is second only to China's. Instead of bold action, the response of federal environmental officials to the recycling market meltdown was to produce an embarrassing and largely irrelevant plan that focuses on outdated ideas such as encouraging the public and local government to do a better job of recycling. And then do what with it? The "Save Our Seas" plan passed by Congress in 2018 was equally weak, focusing on cleaning up the plastic in our oceans, not stopping it from getting there in the first place. Perhaps someone should tell President Trump that China is winning the war on plastic.

Even more shameful are the backward steps that some U.S. states have taken to prevent their local governments from adopting plastic-reduction policies. While a number of coastal states such as California and Oregon have adopted bans on specific single-use plastic items such as grocery bags, legislatures in Texas, Arizona and other conservative-leaning states have passed laws, at the behest of the plastics industry, forbidding cities and counties from approving such policies, even though local governments bear the brunt of cleaning up plastic trash.

In this country, the best hope for action on single-use plastic lies with the California Legislature, which is currently considering a comprehensive plastic packaging reduction proposal

See CHINA on Next Page



Funny and lonely walk into a bar...

There's something funny about loneliness.

Most folks with a terrific sense of humor know that loneliness, anxiety, depression and comedy share a basement apartment in a sketchy neighborhood.

Leighann Lord, a brilliant comedian, writer, actress and activist, recently made this connection when she wrote, "If I were a therapist, I'd go to comedy shows and hand out my card—to comedians."

Humor runs towards the terrifying and taboo, flinging itself with outstretched arms to embrace subjects everybody else wants to leave on the other side of the room.

Humor, in some form, has been part of every culture, throughout history. It's an essential part of life. It's often therapeutic precisely because it helps us understand we're not alone: We laugh together. We convene the spirit of comedy when we deliberately gather to be amused, and even those who are usually outcast are welcome at such an event.

What doesn't polite society, in all seriousness, want to discuss? Sex, money, political corruption, bodily functions, religion, loss and despair?

These have been the very subjects attracting writers of comedy since Aristophanes penned "Lysistrata" as a vehicle for the young Joan Rivers.

The creator and performer of the comic story takes risks by revealing what the rest of us would prefer to keep hidden: that we worry about everything from the plight of the impoverished to whether headbands make our heads look fat, that we're uncertain if our parents loved us and equally uncertain how to calculate an 18% tip, that we fear dying alone with cats as well as dying alone with dogs or, for that matter, surrounded by doctors, members of the clergy, or any of our cousins.

Recognizing not only intellectually but psychologically and physically, through laughter, that we are not the only ones feeling such a range of emotions makes us feel less alone, provides a renewed sense of perspective, allows us to hit an emotional "reset" button and can relieve stress.

The one creating the humor, as Lord points out, while inspiring feelings of connection, engagement, release and realignment in others, may or may not feel such a transformation herself. Jim Mendrinis, author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Comedy Writing" and a successful performer as well as teacher of comedy, put it more starkly when he wrote, "I've turned my public persona into nothing more than a sales pitch. Here's the cost: I now literally have 3 people in my life

By **GINA BARRECA**
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at the University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



I can speak to when I'm at a low."

And it's the funny people who, I believe, can explain loneliness best. Charles Schulz, creator of "Peanuts"—whose character Linus is famous for shouting, "I love mankind ... It's people I can't stand!"—offers the most vivid descriptions of loneliness I've ever read: "The most terrifying loneliness is not experienced by everyone and can be understood by only a few. I compare the panic in this kind of loneliness to the dog we see running frantically down the road pursuing the family car. He is not really being left behind, for the family knows it is to return, but for that moment in his limited understanding, he is being left alone forever, and he has to run and run to survive. It is no wonder that we make terrible choices in our lives to avoid loneliness."

Like Schulz, those of us who have experienced loneliness, especially as children, understand it remains pervasive and influential over a lifetime. Perhaps it isn't surprising that many people engaged in the work of comedy lay claim to episodes of profound loneliness: according to the UCLA diagnostic scale of loneliness, it's often extroverts who report unhappiness when experiencing isolation.

A stark sense of isolation encloses anyone who looks outward for validation. Those of us who learned early on that the only way to be heard was to be funny will rely on it for a lifetime. It's as if your identity exists only if someone else's response to you draws a chalk line around it.

Is it surprising, then, that a lot of people who are part of the humor tribe have been profoundly lonely at some point in their lives? When you're fiercely lonely, you can almost entirely forget that other people exist—unless you are trying to make them laugh.

Because when someone genuinely laughs with you, it's proof that you share a certain internal space. And that's not so lonely after all.

Ekuñgog

Kada chatagmag matachoñg-yu` gi siyahu gi kusanan sanhiyuñg `nai hu tutuhun rumikonose gi Internet haf` guaha gi oriya yan chagu`. Mesklau i asuntu desde felis esta che`chu` satbahe.

Fuera de hinanau konbiñiente hu konsidera haf` na planu guaha para uma-adelanta kualidat linala` tautau-ta siha guine na petlas?

Taya` fina` nuebu na asuntu maseha mohon pot kadu` na planun para uma-adelanta ha`anen tautau-ta siha guine. Kulan atdau ni doku` gi sanhaya ya machum dispues gi sanlagu. Natting!

Estageu` `nai klaru anog abilidat kabisiyu umadelanta ha`anen tautauña siha. Iya hululu` i suetdun popble ni ma-ususune ni 15-mit na empleau guine. Haf` planun miyu fuera de “not yet, already?”

Baratu

Ta usa kumu ihemplo asuntun guma` familia. Ha nesessita este lafigu` na suetdu para u siña i familia siha man-manhatsa disiente na fanliheñg.

Na ti magahet na kase 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble? Haf` para u chogue i kuattru na membron familia yan \$7.25 gi ora?

I kuattru na membron familia haf` mohon na suetdu mauleg para u siña mahatsa petmanente na guma`? Nahuñg ni \$7.25 gi ora `sino \$15,080 gi sakan? Hokog dispues de mafahan mas presisu na nesessidat tat kumu neñkanu`.

I suetdun popble gi 15-mit na empleau i primera chanda para i manma-elihe pa`gu na sakan.

Pipinu`

Kase in` tiñgu` esta na ayu na sagu mafanana`an “coronavirus” pipinu` na chenot. Ha tutuhungue` giya China `nai guaha 56 na tautau esta manpininu`.

Todu bisnis kumarera ginen China mana` para pot sumen piligru este na sagu. I chenot kulan regulat na sagu estake ha hatme

i gofes ya nimoña (pneumonia) i tautau.

Para proteksion-mu mismu, suhaye tautau ni lolo`lu` piot ya nuebu `nai ha birague` ginen iya China. `An sinagu hau, mauleg un` falag i hospitat ya un` mariseta pot asegurad.

Gaige hahale`ña i chenot gi katnen ga`ga` siha na masuspecha man-inaplacha`e kukuracha `sino cha`ka ni mabenefisia dispues. Piligrosu!

Bintaha

Hinanau popble gai grasia yan likidu na inagoflie`e ha fotma gi entalu` membron familia. Man-asustene unu yan otro gi dididi` na guinahan familia. `An hinegsa` yan asiga pues in` usune yan hanum sinaga ginen i tanke.

Sessu teñga `an mamomokatyu` para i Guma` Yuus para bai fañetbe kumu tanores mafattu gi hinasoghu kau “este ha` ut-timu?” Magahet na tatnai hana` fan fatta ham i Saina presisu na nesessidat siha desde neñkanu` esta trahe. Maseha anna`e lau esta enfin guaha para tampen tatautau mame.

Ginen un` popble lokue` na bisinu `nai man-dañkulu ham mina ti in` gef siente pineple. Parehu patek diariamente. `An sinetnan sune yan asiga sena-hu pues tapbla yan i bisinu. Ayu buente na parehu ham man-magof gi tinaya` mame!

Magahet na fitme na krineansa ginen mafañan mame umusune haf` guinahan mame. Poresu na ni unu mafañake pot fitme leksion i Dies Na Tinagu` Yuus ginen i sinatusan na nanan mame. Diariu na poñga para bai`n che`gue che`chu` echu tautau!

Inadahe

Gi un` popblen guma` `nai man-eyag ham man-la`la` gi halum tinaya`. Magahet na tat ti in` usune entalu` gualu`, tasi yan halum tanu` manman-aligau mantension.

Iya Obyan tatnai huli`e `an ha`ane solu pueñge `an man-emanog hatsadu ham. Ayu `nai umeyagy` malagu gi halum tanu` sin kandet (flashlight) lau gaige matahu gi manog gi rammas troñku.

Gi birada ume-umañg-yu` pot yumahu dispues mantika na abunen umañg yan hinegsa`. Puru bokan satbasion ginen un`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

popblen guma`. Fitme siha na leksion mattu ginen ayu na finaposs-hu tat kumu inadahe gi halum tinaya`.

I tinilaikan tiempu umatisa mas sapet gi megai na familia guine. Gi hiniyuñg i Navy megai mana` fan para gi offisiun niha. Dispues de hinalum i Trust Territory `nai adumididi` manmakone` tatte.

Megai umusune man-gualu` tatte pot ayu solu `nai siña ma-prebeniye familia mantensioña. Kontodu tasi ma-usune. Diberas na tiru halum gualu` kada finagpu` eskuela esta i lemlem tautau.

Ni estuidiu makat `nai estayu` yayas ginen che`chu` gualu`. Esta i chatagmag gi sigiente dia `nai hu falague iyoghu siha homework.

Adumididi`

Maseha latan satdinas in` katdun niyog yan kundot `sino puntan kalamasa para bai`n fan nahuñg. Ayu `nai in` seseda ginefsagan mame `an in` pinu pinegsai manog `sino babue.

Megai pinadesen tautau-ta siha guihe na tiempu `nai hasan cho`chu`. Gualu` yan tasi diariu mapetsige ni megai na familia guine. Lau in` siñgun pot ayu solu `nai siña bai`n seda` mantension mame.

Lau ni achog halum chinatsaga guaha siha fina` grasian halum pineple. I puntu: man-magof i familia umusune haf` guaha gi kusina.

Gi ha`anen gupot siha mas oppan magof na fasun tautau-ta bastara ke kompliañus i Niño Jesus. Esta i makat na sentimentu nina` ñahlalañg esta dispues de ha`anen Año Nuebu! I pisu gaige gi kutturan ina` ayuda gi entalu` unu yan tod.

Getting John Bolton to testify is only half the battle

Are there Las Vegas odds yet on whether former national security adviser John Bolton reveals more in his book than he will in President Trump’s impeachment trial?

On Monday, Amazon revealed that Bolton’s account of his time in the White House will be published March 17. People who saw drafts of the book told the New York Times that it includes at least one impeachment-related bombshell: Bolton’s claim that Trump said he wanted crucial military aid to Ukraine held until the country’s new leaders had agreed to open two investigations seen as helpful to Trump’s reelection campaign.

The Senate is expected to be done with its quick-and-dirty review of L’Affaire Ukraine well before March 17—unless four or more Republicans agree with the Senate minority to call Bolton and other witnesses.

(A bipartisan trio of legal experts argued in the New York Times on Monday that the trial’s presiding officer, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., could subpoena witnesses at the request of either side, and only a two-thirds majority vote could quash such

a subpoena. Hmmm.)

Just getting Bolton to testify is only half the battle, though. Trump’s team would almost certainly raise objections based on executive privilege, the Supreme Court-endorsed separation-of-powers principle that Congress should not be able to force the administration to reveal what the president and his top advisers discussed. Roberts would rule from the bench on any such motion, and if it’s like any other ruling from the presiding officer, it could be overturned by a majority vote.

You could game this out in any number of head-spinning ways. Would a Republican who votes to compel Bolton to testify defy the GOP again to override executive privilege? That would certainly be an easier vote if Roberts ruled that it didn’t apply in this circumstance. What are the chances Roberts would do that?

The problem for anyone opposed to hearing Bolton testify, though, is that they’ll simply cede the narrative to whatever version Bolton tells in his book. Trump has already taken to Twitter to deny the New York Times’ version, of course:

By JON HEALEY

Los Angeles Times



Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times’ deputy editorial page editor.

If it’s a battle over whom the public will believe, do Republicans really want to bet on Trump?

The more that Senate Republicans outside the Trump orbit signal their willingness not just to call Bolton but also let him testify, the more likely it is that Republicans will pivot toward a different defense strategy: offsetting the impact of any Bolton testimony by summoning one or both of the Bidens. Although many Senate Democrats may recoil at the idea, they don’t have the votes to block a unified GOP on that front.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A ‘hot’ time on Tinian

Kudos are due to Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and his employees for doing a superlative job of preparing Tinian for the annual Pika Festival. Whomever he has assigned to manage the new road-clearing project has done a great job. The roadways on the civilian one-third end of Tinian are in better shape today than they have been for a long time, certainly before Yutu. Guests visiting Tinian for the Pika Festival will be amazed at the condition of San Jose Village, Marpo Heights, and Carolinas Heights, and all our historic sites, especially in light of the massive destruction our island suffered during Super Typhoon Yutu a year ago October.

The mayor of Tinian cannot be held responsible for the maze of potholes on Broadway, heading north from the air-

port toward Runway Able, the Atomic Bomb Loading Pits and the Atomic Bomb Assembly areas. That problem could have been resolved some years ago through the Tinian Civilian-Military Advisory Council. Unfortunately, neither the late Gov. Inos nor Gov. Torres have allowed the mayors of Tinian to initiate these dialogues with Joint Region Marianas, even though it is clearly prescribed in the Technical Agreement to the Covenant for exactly such purposes. The personnel hired for this purpose through grants from the Office of Economic Adjustment have been retained in the governor’s office.

Nonetheless, visitors to this year’s Pika Festival (Feb. 15-16) are in for a “hot time” on Tinian, even though the trade winds are blowing cool and steady. The festival grounds are

doesn’t pass, and it really should, anti-waste advocates have launched an initiative to put an even more far-reaching measure on the November ballot that would include a tax on plastic packaging. (They’re gathering signatures now.)

This important legislation would go a long way toward reducing disposable plastic generated in California, but also potentially across the nation. Because California is such a large

in great shape and the people of Tinian are as excited as ever.

We hope that our visitors from Saipan, particularly elected and appointed officials who always join us, will enjoy passing through the quaint Saipan commuter terminal. No doubt, CPA will have the porta-potties cleaned. The open-air seating for customers awaiting their flights is memorable. The parking for Saipan guests is spacious. And the service at the commuter terminal restaurant is exceptional. And when you get to the Tinian festival grounds, there will be food and cold drinks to help visitors forget about the commuter terminal and enjoy a getaway on our pristine, green flagged beaches.

Don Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian






CHINA

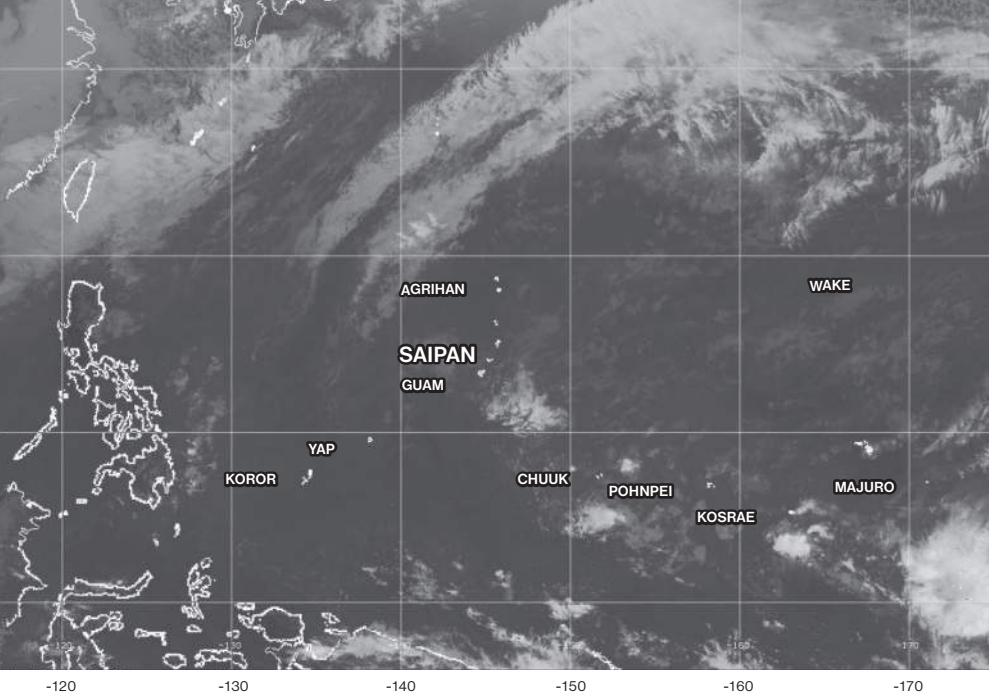
From Page 10

that would require by 2030 that most products sold in the state be contained in plastic packaging that manufacturers can show is being successfully recycled or composted. If the legislation

market for consumer goods, the expectation is that manufacturers of products such as laundry detergent and potato chips would find it more cost effective to retool their packaging for products nationwide, rendering even the most ignorant pro-plastic laws moot.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	88°	76°	87°	75°	87°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:14 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show isolated showers moving through the region with heavier showers and some thunderstorms farther to the southeast of Guam. Buoys show seas of 5 to 8 feet across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	66° / 54°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°	
London	Mostly Sunny	48° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 52°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°	
Melbourne	Sunny	99° / 73°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
New York	Sunny	43° / 25°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 39°	
Salem	Showers	56° / 39°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Seoul	Cloudy	48° / 28°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	43° / 27°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:22 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.11	
11:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.59	
5:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80	
10:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.41	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:40 AM	9:46 PM	-
Thursday	10:15 AM	10:32 PM	-
Friday	10:51 AM	11:18 PM	-
Saturday	11:26 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:05 AM	12:04 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 18, 2020															
DEPARTURES								ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)								GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117		9:15am	9:55am	Daily				UA174		7:30am	8:11am	Daily			
UA156		6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6				UA112		4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)								NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN							
SKY816		4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7				SKY811		10:15am	3:00pm	Daily			
SKY816		5:05pm	8:00pm	6											
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)								BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							
7C3451		3:20am	6:30am	Daily				7C3452		9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
								7C3452		10:05pm	2:30am+1	3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)								SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN							
TW308		2:05am	6:05am	Daily				OZ623		6:45am	12:10pm	5			
OZ626		2:10am	6:05am	1				OZ623		7:00am	12:20pm	7			
OZ626		2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7				OZ6233		7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6			
OZ626		3:35am	7:20am	4				OZ623		8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3			
7C3403		4:35am	8:35am	Daily				7C3402		10:10am	3:30pm	Daily			
OZ6243		3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6				TW309		11:10am	4:25pm	Daily			
OZ624		3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625		7:30pm	1:00am+1	7			
7C3401		4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				TW307		7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily			
TW310		5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily				OZ625		8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			
								OZ625		9:05pm	2:25am+1	3			
								7C3404		10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)								SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN							
3U8648		6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647		10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)								HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN							
JD396		7:30am	12:05pm	1				JD395		8:05am	3:30pm	4			
JD396		4:50pm	7:55pm	4				JD395		8:50pm	5:00am+1	7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)								GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN							
3U8646		4:30am	7:50am	2, 6				3U864		8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)								BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN							
MU764		1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7				MU763		4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)								MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/701		2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN				UA189/174		12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM			
OZ626/701		2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ702/625		12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN			
UA117/183		9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM				OZ702/625		12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN			
UA117/193		9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				OZ702/625		12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN			
UA156/183		6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM				UA192/174		10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR			
UA156/193		6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR				UA184/174		10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			
								OZ704/623		11:45pm	12:10pm+1	5 via ICN			
								OZ704/623		11:45pm	12:20pm+1	7 via ICN			
								OZ704/6233		11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN			
								OZ704/623		11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN			
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)								HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/721		2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN				OZ746/623		12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN			
OZ626/721		2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ746/623		12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN			
OZ626/721		3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN				OZ746/6233		12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN			
UO43		5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7				OZ746/623		12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN			
OZ6243/9661		3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN				OZ722/625		1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN			
OZ624/9661		3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN				OZ722/625		1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN			
OZ624/9661		3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN				OZ722/625		1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN			
								UO42		6:50pm	1:45am+1	7			
								UO42		9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (<i>The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.</i>)															
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.															
SAIPAN TO ROTA															
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY												
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily												
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily												
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily												
ROTA TO SAIPAN															
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY												
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily												
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily												
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily												
ROTA TO GUAM															
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY												
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily												
GUAM TO ROTA															
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY												
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily												
SAIPAN TO TINIAN															
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY												
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily												
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily												
								1203 9:00AM 9:15AM Daily							
								1204 10:00AM 10:15AM Daily							
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								1206 12:00PM 12:15PM Daily							
								1207 1:00PM 1:15PM Daily							
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								1209 3:00PM 3:15PM Daily							
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								1211 5:00PM 5:15PM Daily							
								1212 6:00PM 6:15PM Daily							
								TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
								FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
								2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily				
								2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily				
								2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily				
								2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily				
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily												
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily												
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily												
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily												
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily												
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily												
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily												
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily												

12th Grade
Alvin Palacios
Bom (Emmeline) Lee
Jehyuk Jung
Julia Taguchi
Keon Dodge Apolonio
Kichang (Jack) Jeoung
Kimvherly Ann Dela Cruz
Mathew Roderick Richardson
Seokyoung (Michelle) Kim

Business

By ELAINE KURTENBACH and
ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Business around the world that have grown increasingly reliant on big-spending tourists from China are taking a heavy hit, with tens of millions of Chinese residents restricted from leaving their country as the coronavirus spreads.

Hotels, airlines, casinos and cruise operators were among the industries suffering the most immediate repercussions, especially with the outbreak occurring during the Lunar New Year, one of the biggest travel season in Asia.

What happens in China means a lot more to the world economy than it did when the SARS outbreak struck nearly two decades ago. In 2003, China accounted for 4.3% of world economic output. Last year, it accounted for 16.3%, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Tourism from China was already down before the virus hit due in part to the Hong Kong protests and the trade dispute between Beijing and Washington.

But about 134 million Chinese traveled abroad in 2019, up 4.5% from a year earlier, according to official figures. Before the outbreak, the China Outbound Tourism Research Institute predicted some 7 million Chinese would travel abroad for the Lunar New Year this year, up from 6.3 million in 2019.

Hong Hong, Thailand, Ja-



Travelers from Beijing, wearing masks, arrive at Charles de Gaulle airport, north of Paris, early Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

AP

pan and Vietnam were top destinations, but Chinese tourists are big spenders in cities like London, Milan, Paris and New York.

Economist and tourism industry officials said the biggest threat so far is to China's closest neighbors, with the U.S. and Europe likely to face major repercussions only if the coronavirus outbreak proves long-lived.

In Thailand, a favorite des-

tination for Lunar New Year travel, officials estimate potential lost revenue at 50 billion baht (\$1.6 billion). Many drugstores in Bangkok ran out of surgical masks and the number of Chinese tourists appeared to be much smaller than usual for the Lunar New Year. The government announced it was handing out masks, and that the airport rail link would be disinfected.

Spillover is also probable in

Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines, said Tommy Wu and Priyanka Kishore, of Oxford Economics.

Hong Kong is especially vulnerable because its economy and its appeal to tourists have already been weakened by months of sometimes-violent political protest. By November, inbound tourism to Hong Kong was already down 56% from a year earlier.

Visitors from mainland Chi-

na to the autonomous Chinese gambling capital of Macau was down 80% on Sunday from a year earlier, a threat to a regional government that depends on gaming revenue.

Gaming and lodging operators in Macau reported higher-than expected cancellations over the weekend as the death toll from coronavirus rose and the Chinese government extended travel restrictions, according to Instinet analyst

Harry Curtis.

"Cancellations soared across all of the properties we contacted," Curtis said in a note. "Pessimism rose on how long it could take for business to recover."

Shares of Wynn Resorts, Las Vegas Sands and MGM Resorts International—which all have operations in Macau—have declined 18.3%, 14.6% and 12.1% since Jan. 17, respectively.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

California tests find illegal vapes tainted with additives

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California officials announced Monday that marijuana vape cartridges seized in illegal shops in Los Angeles contained potentially dangerous additives, including a thickening agent blamed for a national outbreak of deadly lung illnesses tied to vaping. Officials also found that the illegal vapes confiscated in the December raids typically were not as potent as advertised, and sometimes contained just a fraction of the THC claimed on the labels, according to state testing results. THC is the chemical in marijuana that makes users feel high. The findings highlight the risk for consumers at underground shops and delivery services that are common in Los Angeles and elsewhere around

California, officials said. The state conducted tests on the marijuana oil contained in a random sample of more than 10,000 illegal vape pens seized in the Los Angeles raids.

Chipotle fined \$1.3M over thousands of child labor abuses

BOSTON (AP) — Chipotle was hit with a \$1.3 million fine over more than 13,000 child labor violations at its Massachusetts restaurants, the state's attorney general announced Monday. Attorney General Maura Healey ordered the largest child labor penalty ever issued by the state against the Mexican restaurant chain after finding an estimated 13,253 child labor violations in its more than 50 locations. The fine detailed that Chipotle had employees under the age of 18 working past midnight

and for more than 48 hours a week. Teenagers told investigators their hours of work were so long that it was preventing them from keeping up with their schoolwork. The company also regularly hired minors without work permits.

GM to invest \$2.2B in Detroit to build electric vehicles

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors is spending \$2.2 billion to refurbish an underused Detroit factory so it can build a series of electric and self-driving vehicles, eventually employing 2,200 people. GM said in a statement Monday that the factory will start building the company's first electric pickup late in 2021, followed by a funky-looking self-driving shuttle for GM's Cruise autonomous vehicle unit.

The truck will be the first of several electric vehicles to be built at the plant, which straddles the border between Detroit and the enclave of Hamtramck. The company has plans to revive the Hummer nameplate for one of the vehicles. In November of 2018 GM announced plans to close the factory along with three others in the U.S. But the company promised to reopen Detroit-Hamtramck to build electric vehicles during last fall's contentious contract negotiations with the United Auto Workers union.

NY, feds sue 'Pharma Bro' for 'scheme' to keep drug price up

NEW YORK (AP)—State and federal authorities sued imprisoned entrepreneur Martin Shkreli on Monday over tactics that shielded

a profitable drug from competition after a price hike made the so-called "Pharma Bro" infamous. Shkreli was scorned as the bad-boy face of pharmaceuticals profiteering after he engineered a roughly 4,000% increase in the price of a decades-old medication for a sometimes life-threatening parasitic infection. Monday's lawsuit, filed by the New York attorney general's office and the Federal Trade Commission, centers on subsequent actions by Shkreli and his former company. They "held this critical drug hostage from patients and competitors as they illegally sought to maintain their monopoly," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement. At least four potential competitors have so far been kept from making cheaper generic versions of the medication, the suit says.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 28,535.80 -453.93 1.57%	S&P 3,243.63 -51.84 1.57%	NASDAQ 9,139.31 -175.60 1.89%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7785	Russian Ruble	62.7792
Australian Dollar	1.4792	Singapore Dollar	1.3575
British Pound	0.7659	Japanese Yen	108.9870
Canadian Dollar	1.3185	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0389
Chinese Yuan	6.8139	New Zealand Dollar	1.5277
Euro	0.9070	Philippine Peso	49.8320
		Thailand Baht	30.7285

Nation

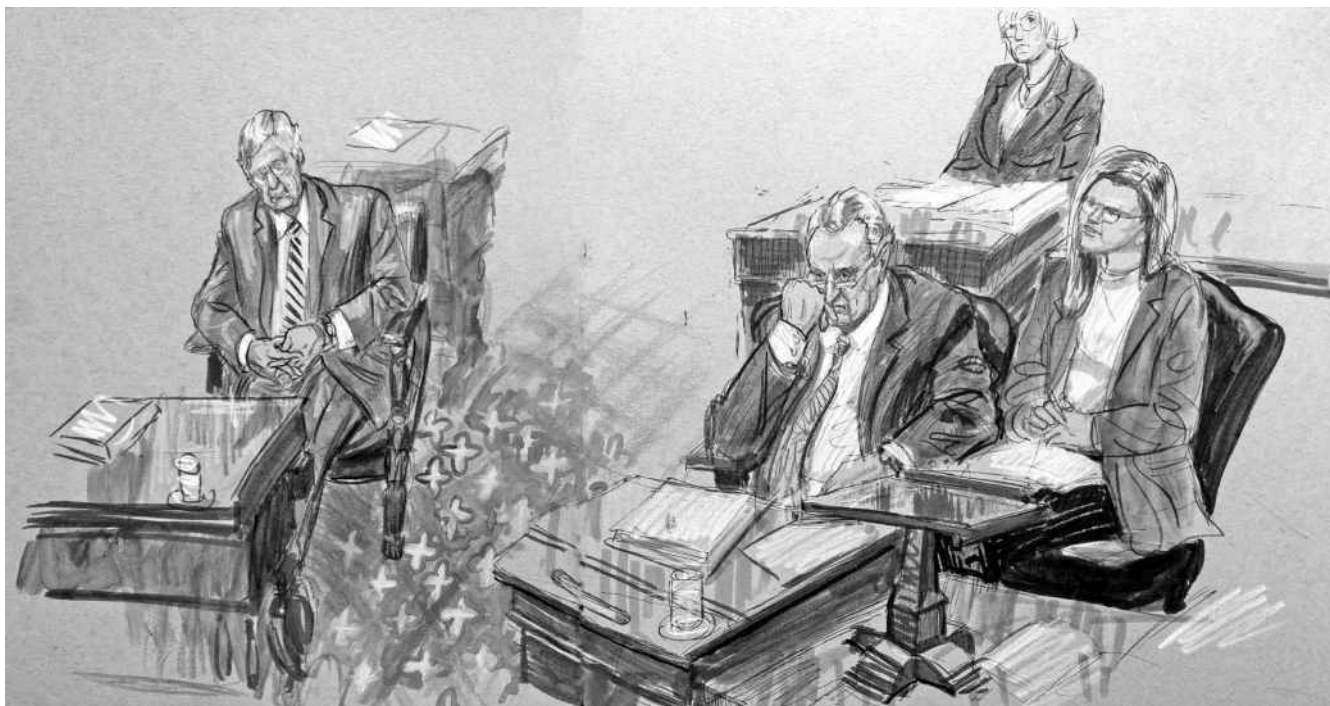
GOP defends Trump as Bolton book adds pressure for witnesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators faced mounting pressure Monday to summon John Bolton to testify at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial even as Trump's lawyers mostly brushed past extraordinary new allegations from the former national security adviser and focused instead on corruption in Ukraine and historical arguments for acquittal.

Outside the Senate chamber, Republicans grappled with claims in a forthcoming book from Bolton that Trump had wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations into Democratic rival Joe Biden. That assertion could undercut a key defense argument—that Trump never tied the suspension of security aid to political investigations.

The revelation clouded White House hopes for a swift end to the impeachment trial, fueling Democratic demands for witnesses and possibly pushing more Republican lawmakers to agree. It also distracted from hours of arguments from Trump's lawyers, who declared anew that no witness has testified to direct knowledge that Trump's delivery of aid was contingent on investigations into Democrats. Bolton appeared poised to say exactly that if called on by the Senate to appear.

"We deal with transcript evidence, we deal with publicly available information,"



This artist sketch depicts Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., left, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., right, listening to defense arguments in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020. **AP**

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said. "We do not deal with speculation."

Trump is charged with abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine's leader to help investigate Biden at the same time his administration was withholding hundreds of millions of dollars in security aid. A second charge accuses Trump of obstructing Congress in its probe.

Republicans are to conclude their arguments Tuesday.

On Monday, Trump's attorneys, including high-profile lawyers Ken Starr and Alan

Dershowitz, launched a historical, legal and political attack on the entire impeachment process. They said there was no basis to remove Trump from office, defended his actions as appropriate and assailed Biden, who is campaigning for the Democratic nomination to oppose Trump in November.

Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi devoted her presentation to Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama admin-

Resident Superior Court Judge Todd Burke recently changed the conditions of the bond. When a bond is secured, a criminal defendant has to either pay cash, put up property as collateral or go through a bails bondsman in order to be released. With an unsecured bond, Myers was able to walk out of a jail Monday morning with a promise that he will appear in court. If he doesn't appear in court, he could be financially liable for the \$5.5 million bond.

US attorney announces \$145M settlement in opioid case

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—A San Francisco-based health information technology company will pay \$145 million to resolve criminal and civil charges that it helped set up an electronic health records system that encouraged physicians to prescribe opioids to patients who might not need them, federal prosecutors in Vermont said Monday. Vermont U.S. Attorney Christina Nolan said the company Practice Fusion, Inc., took kickbacks from a major opioid company in exchange for using its software to influence physicians to prescribe opioid pain medication. Court documents released at a Burlington news conference said that Practice Fusion solicited a nearly \$1 million payment from a company identified only as "Pharma Co. X" in exchange for creating an alert in Practice Fusion's electronic health record system. The alert would cause doctors to write more prescriptions for extended-release opioids than were medically necessary.

Who do they trust?

The percent who trust each source for political or election news

News source	Democrat	News source	Republican
CNN	67%	FOX	65%
NBC	61%	ABC	33%
ABC	60%	CBS	30%
CBS	59%	Hannity	30%
PBS	56%	NBC	30%

Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

istration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. The legal team argued that Trump had legitimate reasons to be suspicious of the younger Biden's business dealings and concerned about corruption in Ukraine and that, in any event, he ultimately released the aid without Ukraine committing to investigations the president wanted.

Democrats say Trump re-

leased the money only after a whistleblower submitted a complaint about the situation.

Trump has sought, without providing evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Though anti-corruption advocates have raised concerns, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice

president or his son.

Starr, whose independent counsel investigation into President Bill Clinton resulted in his impeachment—he was acquitted by the Senate—bemoaned what he said was an "age of impeachment." Impeachment, he said, requires an actual crime and a "genuine national consensus" that the president must go. Neither exists here, Starr said.

"It's filled with acrimony and it divides the country like nothing else," Starr said of impeachment. "Those of us who lived through the Clinton impeachment understand that in a deep and personal way."

Dershowitz, the final speaker of the evening, argued that impeachable offenses require criminal-like conduct, though that view is largely rejected by legal scholars. He said "nothing in the Bolton revelations, even if true, would rise to the level of an abuse of power or an impeachable offense."

"Purely non-criminal conduct, including abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, are outside the range of impeachable offenses," Dershowitz said.

Elizabeth Warren, a presidential campaigner like Biden but also a Senate juror, told reporters she found Dershowitz's arguments "nonsensical."

Even as defense lawyers laid out their case as planned, it was clear Bolton's book had scrambled the debate over whether to seek witnesses. Bolton writes that Trump told him he wanted to withhold security aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations. Trump's legal team has insisted otherwise, and Trump tweeted Monday that he never told Bolton such a thing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man pleads guilty to killings of San Diego homeless men

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A man with a criminal record and history of mental illness pleaded guilty on Monday to four counts of murder in a string of deadly attacks on sleeping homeless men in San Diego, two of whom were set on fire. Jon David Guerrero, 42, agreed to be sentenced May 1 to four consecutive life terms in prison without the possibility of parole and an additional 143 years to life in prison, the Union-Tribune reported. Guerrero also pleaded guilty to four counts of attempted murder, five counts of assault with a deadly weapon and two counts of arson for setting fire to two of four victims who died. The charges involved 12 men and one woman who were targeted over six months in 2016, the newspaper said. Court records show Guerrero is diagnosed with schizophrenia and has a history of arrests and mental competency hearings, including one judge's order that sent him to a state hospital for treatment.

Man accused in assault of four women, teen, out of jail

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man accused of kidnapping and assaulting four women and a teenage girl was released from jail on Monday after a judge changed his bond status. Michael Dean Myers, 33, of High Point, had been in the Guilford County jail since 2018 on a \$5.5 million secured bond, the Winston-Salem Journal reported. But Senior

2 arrested in SC bar shooting that killed 2 and wounded 4

HARTSVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Police have arrested two suspects in a weekend shooting that killed two people and wounded several others at a South Carolina bar, authorities said.

The suspects were taken into custody Monday for the shooting that happened around 2 a.m. Sunday at Mac's Lounge in Hartsville, said Lauren Baker, a spokeswoman for the city.

Darius Grant Dickey is charged with four counts of attempted murder and five other charges, Baker said in a statement that added the investigation continues.

A second suspect is in custody, but that person's name will not be released until police serve additional arrest warrants, Baker said.

Dicaprio Collins, 21, and Bryan Robinson, 29, were killed in the shooting, Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee said. Four others were hurt and taken to hospitals, Baker said.

A judge denied bond for Dickey, who did not have a lawyer at his hearing Monday afternoon.

According to its Facebook page, Mac's Lounge also serves as a music venue. Hartsville is about 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Investigators have released little information about the shooting.

Democratic state Sen. Gerald Malloy called the shooting a "senseless loss of life" on Twitter. He said the club is about two blocks from his law

office and he spent hours Sunday at the business.

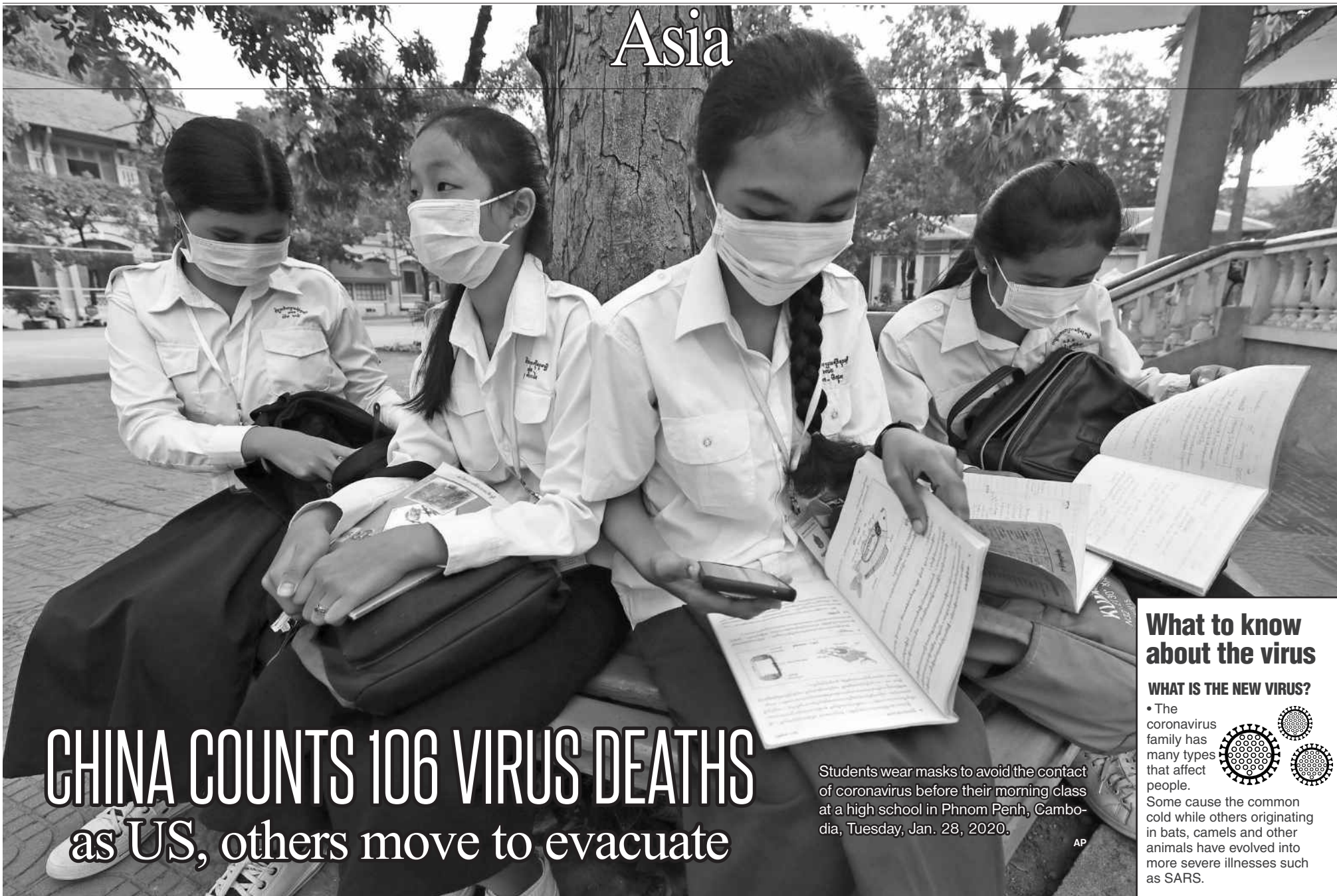
A witness described a chaotic scene as bar patrons ran for their lives.

Samuel Dupree told WMBF-TV he was dancing when he heard something that at first sounded like a firecracker, but he turned and saw the gunfire. He said people in the bar were rushing toward the exit.

"People were trying to get through that tiny door and they couldn't," he said. "I helped someone up off the ground I saw get trampled. I'm not going to let this person just die from getting run over."

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the U.S. Marshals Service are assisting Hartsville police with the investigation.

Asia



CHINA COUNTS 106 VIRUS DEATHS as US, others move to evacuate

Students wear masks to avoid the contact of coronavirus before their morning class at a high school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020.

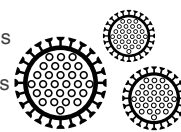
AP

What to know about the virus

WHAT IS THE NEW VIRUS?

- The coronavirus family has many types that affect people.

Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS.



WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

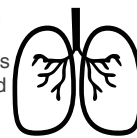
- The first cases appeared last month in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei province.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Symptoms of the coronavirus include fever, cough, tightness of the chest and shortness of breath.

In serious cases, the virus can cause pneumonia.



HOW IS IT TREATED?

- There is a test to identify the virus, but no vaccine to prevent an infection.



The symptoms are treated with pain and fever medication.

HOW IS IT SPREADING?

- Many coronaviruses can spread through coughing or sneezing, or by touching an infected person.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

BEIJING (AP)—Deaths from a new viral disease that is causing mounting global concern rose by 25 to at least 106 in China on Tuesday as the United States and other governments prepared to fly their citizens out of the locked-down city at center of the outbreak.

The total includes the first death in Beijing, the Chinese capital, and 24 more fatalities in Hubei province, where the first illnesses from the newly identified coronavirus occurred in December.

■■■
BEIJING (AP)—China says another 1,771 cases of new virus have been confirmed, now counts more than 4,500.

■■■
The U.S. Consulate in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where authorities cut off most

access Jan. 22 in an effort to contain the disease, was preparing to fly its diplomats and some other Americans out of the city. Japan, France, Mongolia and other governments also planned evacuations.

China's increasingly drastic containment efforts began with the suspension of plane, train and bus links to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people. That lockdown has expanded to 17 cities with more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease-control measures ever imposed.

China extended the Lunar New Year holiday by three days to Sunday to reduce the risk of infection by keeping offices and factories nationwide closed and the public at home. The government of Shanghai, a global business center and home to 25 million

people, extended the holiday in that city by an additional week to Feb. 9.

U.S. health officials expanded their recommendation for people to avoid non-essential travel to any part of China, rather than just Wuhan and other areas most affected by the outbreak.

Mongolia closed its vast border with China after North Korea did so earlier. Hong Kong and Malaysia are barring visitors from Hubei. Chinese travel agencies were ordered to cancel group tours nationwide.

There were 1,771 new cases confirmed in China on Monday, raising the national total to 4,515, according to the National Health Commission. It said 976 people were in serious condition.

Also Tuesday, the Educa-

tion Ministry canceled English-proficiency and other tests for students to apply to foreign universities. The ministry said the new semester for public schools and universities following Lunar New Year was postponed until further notice.

Chinese financial markets were closed for the holiday, but stock indexes in Tokyo, Seoul and Sydney all declined.

Beijing's official response has "vastly improved" since the 2002-03 SARS outbreak, which also originated in China, but "fears of a global contagion are not put to bed," said Vishnu Varathan at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

Airlines, resorts and other companies that rely on travel and tourism suffered steep losses. Prices of gold and bonds rose as traders moved money into safe haven

holdings.

Scientists are concerned about the new virus because it is closely related to other diseases including SARS, which killed nearly 800 people.

So far, the new coronavirus doesn't seem to spread as easily among people as SARS or influenza. Most of the cases so far that spread between people were of family members and health workers who had contact with patients. That suggests the new virus isn't well adapted to infect people.

China also reported eight cases in Hong Kong and five in Macao, and more than 45 cases have been confirmed elsewhere in the world. Almost all involve mainland Chinese tourists or people who visited Wuhan.

Sri Lanka confirmed its first case Monday. Infections also have been confirmed in the United States, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, France, Canada and Australia.

The five American cases—two in southern California and one each in Washington state, Chicago and Arizona—are people who had recently arrived from central China. Health officials said they had no evidence the virus was spreading in the United States and they believe the risk to Americans remains low.

During the SARS outbreak

India plans sale of debt-laden national carrier Air India

NEW DELHI (AP)—India said Monday it plans to sell its entire 100% stake in the national carrier Air India to shore up falling government revenues amid an economic slowdown, after an initial attempt last year failed to attract a single bidder.

The government issued a document on Monday inviting initial expressions of interest in the airline, which operates both domestic and

international routes and has accumulated huge losses in the past decade.

The document set March 17 as the deadline for submissions and said the bidders would have to absorb 232 billion rupees (\$3.26 billion) of the airline's 580 billion rupee (\$8 billion) debt burden.

The government previously had offered only 76% of its stake for sale, a major

roadblock for many potential investors.

Civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri called Air India a "great asset" whose financial position was "fragile" due to burgeoning debts.

Puri told reporters in New Delhi that Air India as a brand will continue to fly but it needs to be privatized.

Successful bidders will also get 50% of Air India SATS, a joint venture between the na-

tional carrier and Singapore Airlines which provides cargo and ground handling services at major Indian airports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is moving to privatize various state-owned enterprises to help repair government finances and give the economy a boost. Growth slowed to a 4.5% annual pace in the July-September quarter, its slowest rate since mid-2018.

that killed nearly 800 people, Chinese authorities were criticized for reacting slowly and failing to disclose information. The government has responded more aggressively to the latest outbreak.

Wuhan is building two hospitals, one with 1,500 beds and another with 1,000, for the growing number of patients. The first is scheduled to be finished next week.

World

Countries evaluate evacuation of citizens in virus epicenter

BEIJING (AP)—Countries with citizens in the central Chinese city that's the epicenter of a viral outbreak are planning evacuations as the number of illnesses grow and China takes drastic measures to try to stop the spread of the virus.

A look at steps being taken:

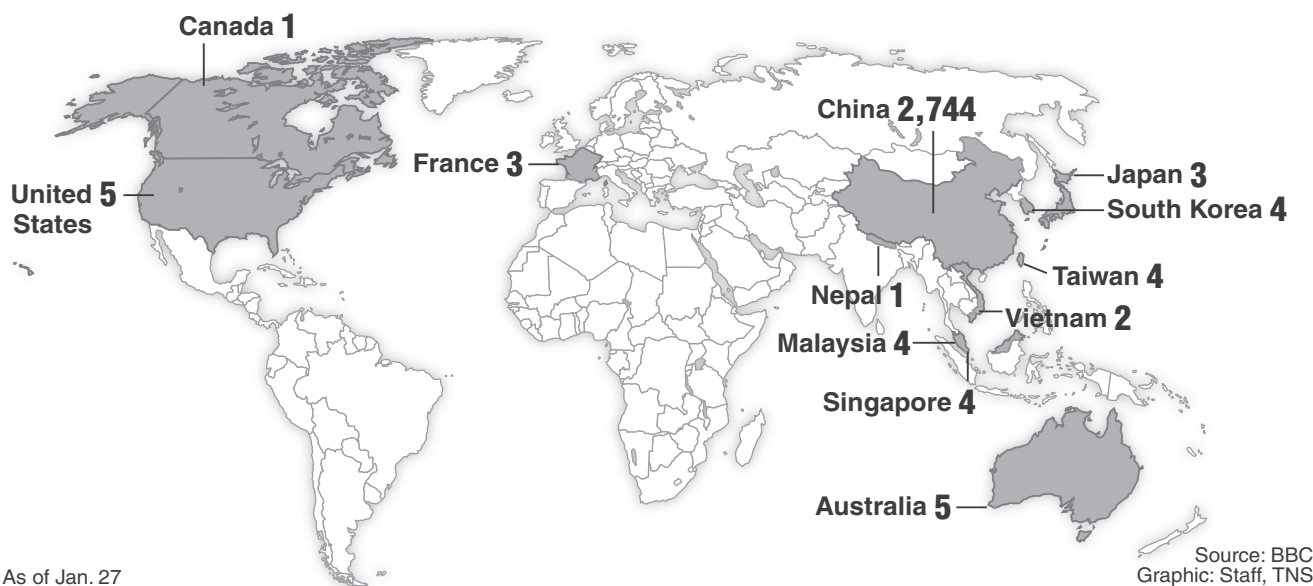
■ **CHINA:** The government cut most access to the city of Wuhan on Jan. 22 and has since expanded those controls to several nearby cities. Anyone traveling from Wuhan is required to register and quarantine themselves for 14 days—the virus' maximum incubation period. Hong Kong barred entry to travelers from Hubei province and told Hong Kong residents returning from the area to quarantine themselves at home.

■ **JAPAN:** Chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Japan was negotiating with the Chinese government on evacuating Japanese from the Wuhan area. He declined to go into details on the timing. Japan also officially designated the virus as an infectious disease, meaning people can be quarantined and hospitalized to try to prevent the spread of the virus.

■ **UNITED STATES:** The U.S. Consulate in Wuhan plans a charter flight to Southern California to for its personnel and some other Americans.

Coronavirus cases outside China

Chinese authorities reported 2,744 people sickened and 81 killed by the new virus first found in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.



The State Department said the flight will leave Wednesday morning for Ontario, California. The plane will refuel in Anchorage, Alaska, where the passengers will be rescreened, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

■ **FRANCE:** Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said French citizens who want to leave Wuhan will be taken on a direct flight to France in the middle of the week, and then held in quarantine for 14 days. France has some 800 citizens

in Wuhan. French automaker PSA, which produces Peugeot and Citroen cars, said it was evacuating its expatriate employees and their families from Wuhan and quarantining them in another city. It didn't elaborate.

■ **SRI LANKA:** The embassy in Beijing has applied for a Sri Lankan Airlines plane to be allowed to land at the Wuhan airport to airlift home 32 Sri Lankan students and their family members. The foreign ministry also said it was working to bring back

all other Sri Lankan students throughout China, who number about 860.

■ **SOUTH KOREA:** Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Minister Hong Nam-ki said the government is making full preparations to send a chartered plane to bring South Koreans in Wuhan home as soon as a formal government decision to dispatch that aircraft is made. Hong also said the government has raised its infectious disease alert level and is taking preventive measures such as inspecting all

people coming from Wuhan and strengthening quarantine.

■ **GERMANY:** Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that his country is considering evacuating its citizens from Wuhan, with a government crisis response committee meeting soon with medical experts to evaluate the situation. He said the number of German citizens in Wuhan is in the double digits. The foreign ministry currently advises Germans to refrain from or postpone "non-essential travel" to China.

■ **EUROPEAN UNION:** Portugal says it has joined with other smaller European Union countries to organize a possible evacuation of their citizens from Wuhan. Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva said 14 Portuguese have asked to be taken out of the city. Santos Silva says other EU countries with low numbers of potential evacuees are considering a joint operation and have approached Chinese health authorities about gaining clearance for it. He did not identify the other countries. French health official Jerome Salomon says France may take non-French people on the flight it's trying to arrange.

■ **THAILAND:** Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said his country's Defense Ministry was ready to evacuate its citizens from affected areas in China, but hadn't yet received permission from the Chinese government. The Thai Foreign Ministry says there are 64 Thais in Wuhan and 18 elsewhere in Hubei province.

■ **AUSTRALIA:** Foreign Minister Marise Payne said her government is "exploring all opportunities" to help with evacuation of a number of Australians reportedly in Wuhan. She didn't elaborate. Australia doesn't have a consular presence in Wuhan.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran, photos suggest a US-criticized satellite launch looms

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iranian officials and satellite images suggest the Islamic Republic is preparing to launch a satellite into space after three major failures last year, the latest for a program which the U.S. claims helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile program. Satellite images from San Francisco-based Planet Labs Inc. that have been annotated by experts at Middlebury Institute of International Studies show work at a launchpad at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's Semnan province. The photos also show more cars and activity at a facility at the spaceport, some 230 kilometers (145 miles) southeast of Iran's capital, Tehran. Such activity in the past has signaled a launch looms.

Nighttime mortar attack on US Embassy in Baghdad injured 1

BAGHDAD (AP)—A top U.S. commander said Monday that mortars were used in an attack on the American

embassy in Baghdad that injured one person and caused some material damage the previous night, not katyusha rockets as was initially reported by staffers and a statement from the military. Gen. Frank McKenzie, a top U.S. commander for the Middle East, told reporters traveling with him that the mortar attack started a fire that was put out. He said no U.S. military personnel were injured, but one U.S. national had a minor injury but returned to work. Two staff members at the embassy, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said initially that rockets slammed into a restaurant inside the American compound late Sunday. A military statement had said five rockets hit inside Baghdad's Green Zone, where the embassy sits.

Brazil downpour displaces 30,000, bracing for more rain

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Over 30,000 people have been displaced by heavy rains in southeast Brazil that also killed 54 people and left 18

missing. The storms in recent days caused floods and landslides, submerging entire neighborhoods and sending homes tumbling down hillsides in the states of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo and Rio de Janeiro. Rains subsided by Monday, but were expected to resume later this week in some areas. Flooded roads created violent rapids, sweeping up victims, cars and other debris. Those evacuated were being housed in makeshift shelters in churches, schools and fire stations. Local authorities have asked for donations of clothes, sheets and mattresses for the victims.

Fighting sharply rises in Yemen, endangering peace efforts

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A drastic escalation in fighting between the Saudi-led military coalition and Houthi rebels in Yemen has killed and wounded hundreds of people over the past week, officials and tribal leaders said Monday. The U.S.-backed Arab coalition battling to restore Yemen's internationally recognized government stepped up airstrikes on rebel targets

northeast of the capital, Sanaa, following a monthslong lull, while Houthis shelled government-held areas. The sudden spike in violence across long-stalemated front lines threatened to exacerbate the five-year conflict and complicate indirect peace talks between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed rebels. The U.N. Security Council called emergency consultations for Tuesday morning at Britain's request on the latest developments.

Soldier slain, general wounded during Mexico drug plane raid

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican soldier was killed and a general wounded Monday when traffickers opened fire on a military patrol that sought to intercept a drug plane as it landed on a roadway, officials said. The dramatic pre-dawn shootout in the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo showed the brazenness of drug cartels that are flying increasing amounts of cocaine in from South America. The traffickers pulled up in two vehicles near where the small plane landed on a

road near the coastal lagoon resort of Bacalar and tried to unload an estimated 1,750 to 2,200 pounds (800 and 1,000 kilograms) of cocaine in 26 packages, authorities said. When soldiers pulled up—the plane had been tracked by radar—the traffickers opened fire with a .50 caliber rifle and at least three other guns, officials said. Two suspects were detained nearby.

Authorities battle Atlantic storm to intercept cocaine yacht

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—An international drug operation involving authorities from six countries captured a yacht carrying almost 2 metric tons of cocaine in the middle of an Atlantic storm. Portugal's navy and air force took part in the seizure, with a street value of more than 70 million euros (\$77 million), amid "very difficult weather conditions," a Portuguese police statement said Monday. The Portuguese operation was supported by police in Brazil, the U.S., Britain, France and Spain. Intelligence-gathering that helped locate and intercept the yacht

was coordinated by the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre -- Narcotics, based in Lisbon. Two foreign men aged 51 and 53 were arrested in the operation, Portuguese police said.

Slovenia's PM steps down, urges EU nation to hold early vote

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)—Slovenia's prime minister announced his resignation on Monday and urged the country to hold an early general election. Prime Minister Marjan Sarec said he's resigning because of the crumbling support for his minority government in the small European Union nation of 2 million. Sarec said he will submit his resignation to the country's parliament. Lawmakers then can try to form a new government, but Sarec said he believed an early election was a better option. "I cannot fulfill people's expectations at the moment," Sarec said, according to the STA news agency. "But I can fulfill them after the elections." Finance Minister Andrej Bartoncelj also resigned earlier Monday.

Focus

By VANESSA GERA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP)—Survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp prayed and wept as they marked the 75th anniversary of its liberation, returning Monday to the place where they lost entire families and warning about the ominous growth of anti-Semitism and hatred in the world.

"We have with us the last living survivors, the last among those who saw the Holocaust with their own eyes," Polish President Andrzej Duda told those at the commemoration, which included the German president as well as Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders.

"The magnitude of the crime perpetrated in this place is terrifying, but we must not look away from it and we must never forget it," Duda said.

About 200 camp survivors attended, many of them elderly Jews and non-Jews who traveled from Israel, the United States, Australia, Peru, Russia, Slovenia and elsewhere. Many lost parents and grandparents in Auschwitz or other Nazi death camps during World War II, but were joined by children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren.

They gathered under an enormous, heated tent straddling the train tracks that had transported people to Birkenau, the part of the vast complex where most of the murdered Jews were killed in gas chambers and then cremated. Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet army on Jan. 27, 1945.

Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress, brought the crowd to tears with the story of a survivor who was separated from his family: The man watched his young daughter, in a red coat, walk to her death, turning into a small red dot in the distance before disappearing forever.

After the end of the war, when "the world finally saw pictures of gas chambers, nobody in their right mind wanted to be associated with the Nazis," he recalled. "But now I see something I never thought I would see in my lifetime, the open and brazen spread of anti-Jewish hatred."

"Do not be silent! Do not let this ever happen again—to any people!" Lauder said.

Marian Turski, a 93-year-old Polish Jewish survivor, said he did not expect to make it to the next commemoration and wanted to transmit a message to his grandchildren's generation: That the destruction of the Jews began with small steps that were tolerated. What began with banning Jews from sitting on benches



AP
A person lights a candle at the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

Auschwitz survivors warn of rising anti-Semitism 75 years on

in Berlin evolved in incremental steps to ghettos and death camps. And that such horrors could happen anywhere, even in the United States.

"Auschwitz did not descend from the sky," he said, crediting those words to Austrian President Alexander van der Bellen, among those present. Calling for people to not be indifferent, he said: "Because if you are indifferent, you will not even notice it when upon your own heads, and upon the heads of your descendants, another Auschwitz descends from the sky."

As a Jewish survivor recited Hebrew prayers for the dead, the crowd bowed their heads or wiped away tears. Clergymen of other faiths also prayed.

Then, with the famous gate and barbed wire illuminated in the dark and cold evening, guests marched in a procession to place candles at a memorial to the victims set amid the remains of the gas chambers.

Most of the 1.1 million people murdered by the Nazi German forces at the camp were Jews, but other Poles, Russians and Roma were imprisoned and killed there.

World leaders gathered in Jerusalem last week to mark the anniversary in what many saw as a competing observance. Among them were Russian President Vladimir

Putin, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, French President Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Prince Charles.

Politics intruded on that event, with Duda boycotting it in protest after Putin claimed that Poland played a role in triggering World War II. Duda had wanted a chance to speak before or after Putin to defend his nation's record in face of those false accusations, but he

tion in the epic fight against the Nazis was ignored."

At the commemoration, he did not mention Russia by name. Yet he stressed how Poland was invaded and occupied, losing 6 million of its citizens in the war, half of them Jews. He recalled how Poland fought the Germans on several fronts, warned the world in vain about the genocide of the Jews, and for decades has

the observances at Auschwitz, which is located in the part of southern Poland that was occupied by Germany during the war, were German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. The U.S. was represented by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Organizers of the event in Poland, the Auschwitz-Birkenau state memorial museum and the World Jewish Congress, have sought to keep the spotlight on survivors.

On the eve of the commemorations, survivors, many leaning on their children and grandchildren for support, walked through the camp where they had been brought in on cattle cars and suffered hunger and illness and came close to death. They said they were there to remember, to share their histories with others and to make a gesture of defiance toward those who had sought their destruction.

"I have no graves to go to and I know my parents were murdered here and burned. So this is how I pay homage to them," said Yvonne Engelman, a 92-year-old Australian who was joined by three more generations now scattered around the globe.

She recalled being brought

in from a ghetto in what was then Czechoslovakia by cattle car, being stripped of her clothes, shaved and put in a gas chamber. By some miracle, the gas chamber did not work that day, and she later survived slave labor and a death march.

In Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron paid his respects at the city's Shoah Memorial and warned about rising hate crimes in the country, which increased 27% last year.

"That anti-Semitism is coming back is not the Jewish people's problem: It's all our problem -- it's the nation's problem," Macron said.

Hundreds of diplomats and guests along with several Holocaust survivors joined U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande for a ceremony at the United Nations in New York.

"May we make a pledge: We stand united against hate," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a Holocaust survivor. "We stand united against anti-Semitism. We stand united against xenophobia and racism and any form of bigotry."

Guterres said that "solidarity in the face of hatred is needed today more than ever," and that the U.N. "will stand firm every day and everywhere against anti-Semitism, bigotry and hatred of all kinds."

"The magnitude of the crime perpetrated in this place is terrifying, but we must not look away from it and we must never forget it."

was not given a speaking slot in Jerusalem.

Those claims comes as many Eastern European countries in recent years have been mythologizing their own people's behavior during the war and suppressing knowledge of wrongdoing, something Poland's government also has been criticized for.

Duda said Monday at a news conference that he felt that in Jerusalem, "Polish participa-

been a responsible custodian of Auschwitz and other sites of the German atrocities.

"Distorting the history of World War II, denying the crimes of genocide and negating the Holocaust as well as an instrumental use of the Auschwitz for whatever purposes is tantamount to desecration of the memory of the victims," Duda said. "Truth about the Holocaust must not die."

Among others attending

Good Housekeeping

I'm of two minds about this whole "last meal" thing. You know, the one where you've been convicted (unjustly, of course) of a capital crime—espionage, for example, which is so crazy because you were just taking a selfie in front of the Kremlin—and now grim midnight approaches on the evening of your impending transfer to oblivion and there is but one final question to answer: What to eat?

On the one hand, I may want something so iconically horrific that death's yawning maw would bring welcome relief. Orwell correctly observed that "worst thing in the world ... varies from individual to individual," and for me that would be the dreaded staple from my childhood: canned cubed beets in heavy syrup.

On the other hand, if there's any edge to be taken off my own personal passage to oblivion, it might be done by a dipped Italian beef with both sweet and hot peppers.

Or lasagna, ooh. Honored guest at family gatherings, trusty savior—even cold—when the late-night munchies mount their attack.

Let's take a gander.

Why you need to learn this

Well, it's a new year, and, God help us, we're not getting any younger. If you haven't made lasagna by now, you'd best get on it, especially if you're planning that trip to Moscow. I hear the chef at Lefortovo Prison has a very limited repertoire.

The steps you take

Before we begin, leave us recall that, as we've stated oft times before, there's no accounting for taste: You may find off-putting a lasagna that is heralded by the hoi polloi as the apotheosis of that noodle concoction.

Add to that the fact that, for any given thing on our home planet (Earth), there are more bad examples than there are good. For every Mona Lisa, there are 10,000 inexpertly inked tattoos of "My Old Lady on Her Harley." And how many meals have you approached with salivating anticipation only to swallow each successively dispiriting bite with an underwhelmed, "Meh."

I mention this truth for its two subsequent corollaries: First, if we accept the inevitability of less-than-perfect lasagnas, then, whether you're haunted by the shadow of the hangman's noose or simply prepping for pangs of nocturnal cravings, you may as well learn how to make it yourself. And second, fear not if your first attempt (or your first several attempts) is not as glorious as you would hope. Everything can be improved with



Fear not if your first attempt (or your first several attempts) at lasagna making is not as glorious as you would hope. Everything can be improved with practice and repetition.

(E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS)

LASAGNA ESSENTIALS

Break it down into the component parts for best results

By JAMES P. DEWAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

practice and repetition.

Also, take heart in the fact that lasagna really has only three components—the noodles, sauce and cheese. Well, four, if you're counting ingredients like sausage (Yum!) or spinach (Blech!).

Noodles

The more fancy-pantsed among you probably make pasta from scratch. If you're a home-noodler, though, you needn't be wasting your time on this little primer. Besides, I'm sure they're awaiting your presence down at the Slow Food Clubhouse.

For you lasagna tyros, just buy a box of noodles. Back in the day, the only ones on the market were the kind you had to boil first. They'd come out of the water all huge and flappy like something you'd see in a BBC documentary on alien dermoplasty. Then they'd stick together like lonely cultists and, well, it was a mighty pain.

Enter the modern age with its jet packs and robot chimp butlers and now, no-boil lasagna noodles you can use straight from the box. Could anything be easier?

Sauce

If you use jarred sauce for your lasagna, nobody with any sense of decency will

complain. So, unless Zombie Joe McCarthy is back from the dead and coming over for supper, go ahead and use jarred.

Still, red sauces can be very easy. Some, of course, demand fresh tomatoes and most of your day, but, you can shorten your cooking time dramatically with a simple can of crushed tomatoes.

Prep: 30 minutes
Cook: 45 minutes
Makes: 8-10 servings

This recipe makes more sauce than you'll need. Save the rest for another day. Also, no-boil noodles require a more watery sauce, hence the added chicken stock.

1 1/2 to 2 pounds bulk Italian sausage
Neutral oil, as needed
1 onion, small dice
1 bell pepper, medium dice (the color of your choice)
2 to 4 cloves garlic, minced
Salt to taste
2 cans (28 ounces each) crushed tomatoes
8 to 12 ounces chicken broth or water
1/2 tablespoon Italian seasoning, optional
1 teaspoon fennel seeds, optional
Crushed red pepper to taste, optional
1 package (9 ounces) no-

boil lasagna noodles
1 pound ricotta cheese
1 pound mozzarella cheese
1 to 2 ounces Parmesan cheese, grated

1. For sauce: Place a heavy-bottomed pot over medium high heat, then add oil to coat the bottom. Add sausage; saute until cooked, stirring to break up chunks, 8-10 minutes. While sausage cooks, saute onion, bell pepper and garlic in a tablespoon or two of oil in a separate pan until soft, about 5 minutes. Season with salt. When sausage is cooked, drain and discard any accumulated fat. Stir in crushed tomatoes and cooked vegetables. Add chicken stock or water until sauce is somewhat liquid. Season with salt and stir in optional Italian seasoning, fennel seeds and crushed red pepper; simmer to blend flavors, 20 to 30 minutes.

2. To construct lasagna: Ladle a thin layer of sauce over

onions in butter, then add the tomatoes and salt and simmer 'til it's tasty.

Here's my favorite, though:

Get some bulk Italian sausage whose flavors you really like. Personally, I'm partial to my local supermarket brand. Brown it in oil with some onion, garlic and bell pepper and, when it's cooked through, add

the bottom of a 13-by-9-inch casserole dish. Lay noodles over the sauce with edges overlapping. Spoon blobs of ricotta onto noodles every couple of inches, then sprinkle mozzarella over. Ladle more sauce to cover entire surface. Repeat with another layer. Cover top layer with noodles, then mozzarella. Add sauce until it's coming up the sides, then sprinkle Parmesan over.

3. To bake, cover lasagna with foil and slide into a heated, 350-degree oven until sauce is boiling and noodles are cooked through, about 45 minutes. Uncover for last 10 minutes to brown. Let lasagna rest for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Nutrition information per serving (for 10 servings): 498 calories, 27 g fat, 13 g saturated fat, 82 mg cholesterol, 36 g carbohydrates, 10 g sugar, 29 g protein, 917 mg sodium, 4 g fiber

those crushed tomatoes. I use one 26-ounce can for every half-pound to pound of sausage. Then, stir in some boxed chicken stock and season with salt. You can also add Italian herbs or crushed red pepper, if you like. The sauce should be fairly thin because those no-boil noodles really soak up the liquid.

Simmer the sauce until the flavors blend together, maybe 20 to 30 minutes.

Listen, though: When I cook, I'm eyeballing amounts. That's a skill I suggest you work on, although for now, if you prefer more precision, there's a detailed recipe below.

Also, for lasagna, I usually make more sauce than I need. I've found that pert near nothing is sadder than running out of sauce before your lasagna is completed.

Lastly, some of your fancier lasagnas will alternate layers of bechamel (or its Italian version, balsamella) with the red sauce. Get crazy. I mean, it's delicious and all, but, that's a whole 'nother level of complicated.

Cheese

I add ricotta and mozzarella separately to each layer. Some people combine the two cheeses. Also, some people whisk beaten egg into the ricotta. It adds protein and gives the cheese a bit more structure. Lastly, I'll sprinkle Parmesan over the top layer.

Now, for the construction:

Spoon a bit of sauce over the bottom of a casserole dish. Lay down four or five no-boil noodles with their edges overlapping exactly one smidge. Spoon blobs of ricotta onto the noodles about every 2 inches, then sprinkle the whole lot with shredded mozzarella. Ladle sauce over it liberally, enough to cover the layer completely. Repeat layers until you reach the top of the casserole. My last layer is usually noodles topped with mozzarella, sauce and Parmesan. Cover the casserole in foil and throw it in a 350-degree oven for about 45 minutes, until the sauce is boiling on the sides and your no-boil noodles are cooked through. If you're kicking it old school with pre-boiled noodles, everything's already cooked anyway and all you have to do is heat it through, which will still take 30-45 minutes. Uncover it for the last 10 minutes of baking to brown the Parm.

One last awesome thing about lasagna, by the by, is, as good as it is right out of the oven, it's also fantastic cold, straight from the fridge. I'm not saying this because marijuana is now legal. I'm just sayin'.

Life & Style

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein accuser Mimi Haley testified Monday that weeks after arriving in New York to work for one of his shows, she found herself fighting in vain as the once-revered showbiz honcho pushed her onto a bed and sexually assaulted her, undeterred by her kicks and pleas of, “no, please don’t do this, I don’t want it.”

Haley was the first to testify of the two women whose allegations led to Weinstein’s New York City criminal case. Sobbing at times, she described how the film producer turned a friendly meeting at his Manhattan apartment in June 2006 into a terrifying ordeal that had her contemplating escape plans as he forcibly performed oral sex on her.

“I was kicking, I was pushing, I was trying to get away from his grip,” the former “Project Runway” production assistant testified. “He held me down and kept pushing me down to the bed. Every time I tried to get up he pushed me down.”

Haley, now 42, told jurors she thought, “I’m being raped,” and wondered “If I scream rape, will someone hear me?” She said she told Weinstein she was menstruating in an attempt to deter him, but that didn’t stop him.

“I checked out and decided to endure it,” she said. “That was the safest thing I could do.”

Yet just two weeks later, Haley said, she was accepting an invitation to Weinstein’s hotel room, where he pulled her into bed for sex.

Haley said she “just felt like an idiot” for letting Weinstein convince her to meet again, but thought seeing him could help her regain power as she tried to make sense of the alleged assault. Haley said



In this Oct. 24, 2017, file photo, Mimi Haley appears at a news conference in New York. Haley is expected to appear on the witness stand Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, at Weinstein’s New York City trial. AP

she didn’t want to be intimate with Weinstein, but said she didn’t think Weinstein forced her to have sex.

Weinstein lawyer Damon Cheronis zeroed in on Haley’s continued interactions with Weinstein, scrutinizing her emails and calendar entries marked “HW” during cross-examination. He noted that she kept exchanging warm messages with him, pitched him on a TV show and made several trips on his dime, including jetting off to Los Angeles the day after the alleged assault and flying to London about a month later.

When they couldn’t connect before she left London, she sent

Weinstein’s assistant an email lamenting: “totally bummed to have missed you guys.”

Explaining the fraught dynamics, Haley said she no longer feared Weinstein after “he basically had taken what he wanted” in the hotel room encounter and “wasn’t pursuing me in that manner” any longer.

In what seemed designed to be an aha moment, Cheronis asked Haley if the reason she kept in touch with Weinstein was “because he never sexually assaulted you.”

Haley pulled up the microphone, smiled exasperatedly and said: “No.”

In all, six accusers are expected to testify, but because

of the statute of limitations and other legal technicalities, Weinstein is charged in only two incidents.

They are the alleged rape of an aspiring actress in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and the alleged sexual assault of Haley. Under New York law applicable at the time, Weinstein is not being charged with rape in connection with Haley’s accusations.

Weinstein, 67, has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault, unless they agree to be named as

Haley has.

Haley went public with her allegations at an October 2017 news conference, appearing in front of cameras alongside lawyer Gloria Allred, who also represents Sciorra and other Weinstein accusers.

Haley, born in Helsinki, Finland, and raised in Sweden, said she met Weinstein while in her 20s at the 2004 London premiere of the Leonardo DiCaprio film “The Aviator.”

They crossed paths again in Cannes in 2006 and, when she expressed interest in working on one of his productions, he invited her to his hotel room and asked for a massage. She declined, saying she was “ex-

tremely humiliated.”

More meetings followed, and Weinstein secured Haley a job helping on the set of “Project Runway,” the reality competition show he produced. She testified that before the alleged assault, Weinstein showed up at her apartment and begged her to join him on a trip to Paris for a fashion show.

“At one point, because I just didn’t know how to shut it down so to speak. ... So I said, ‘You know you have a terrible reputation with women, I’ve heard,’” Haley testified.

She said that offended Weinstein and he stepped back and said, “What have you heard?”

Asked by prosecutor Meghan Hast if she had any romantic or sexual interest in Weinstein, Haley firmly answered: “Not at all, no.”

Haley said she didn’t call the police about the alleged assault because she was working in the U.S. on a tourist visa and was scared of Weinstein’s power and connections, telling jurors: “I didn’t think I’d stand a chance.”

Weinstein was jotting notes in a thick yellow notebook through most of Haley’s account, but looked at her and shook his head when she described their encounter. Weinstein has not been charged in connection with that incident.

The jury of seven men and five women heard last week from “Sopranos” actress Anabella Sciorra, who testified that Weinstein overpowered and raped her after barging into her apartment in the mid-1990s. While outside the statute of limitations for criminal charges, Sciorra’s allegations could be a factor as prosecutors look to prove Weinstein has engaged in a pattern of predatory behavior.

Photo cropping mistake leads to AP soul-searching on race

NEW YORK (AP)—A “terrible mistake” in cropping an African climate activist out of a photo sent to customers of The Associated Press prompted soul-searching and some tense staff conversations over issues of racism and inclusion Monday at the news organization.

The AP acknowledged that it aggravated the error through its initial response on Friday, and that it will expand diversity training worldwide as a result.

“My hope is that we can learn from this and be a better news organization going forward,” Sally Buzbee, the news service’s executive editor and senior vice president, said Monday. “I realize I need to make clear from the very top, from me, that diversity and inclusion needs to be one of our

highest priorities.”

An AP photographer at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland took a picture Friday of five activists, including the well-known Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and Ugandan Vanessa Nakate, who were there to discuss climate change. Preparing to send the image, the photographer cropped out Nakate, leaving a picture of four white women before a scenic mountain backdrop.

The initial explanation for the cropping was that it enabled a close-up of Thunberg, and that it removed a distraction—a building behind where Nakate was standing.

The image was sent to AP’s customers worldwide by an editor who was unaware that someone had been cropped

out. After seeing a critical tweet about it, editors at the AP said they realized it was insensitive and a journalistic error.

Other photos were sent out that included Nakate. The AP waited more than a day to take the original cropped shot out of circulation.

A tearful Nakate posted a video on social media saying that when she saw the photo online, “it was the first time in my life that I understood the definition of the word ‘racism.’” She said she felt like her story had been erased.

“I don’t feel OK right now,” she said in the video posted on Twitter. “The world is so cruel.”

Thunberg supported her on social media, saying over the weekend that the picture was “totally unacceptable in

so many ways. Like Vanessa said herself: ‘You didn’t just erase a photo. You erased a continent.’”

After an initial response from AP that Buzbee acknowledged was wrong in tone, she issued a statement Friday evening expressing “regret” and saying that management had spoken with the AP’s journalists about the “error in judgment.” On Sunday, she sent out a second statement on Twitter personally apologizing to Nakate.

Wrote Buzbee: “Vanessa, on behalf of the AP, I want to say how sorry I am that we cropped that photo and removed you from it. It was a mistake that we realize silenced your voice, and we apologize. We will all work hard to learn from this.”

Buzbee said that she

emailed and tweeted to Nakate but has not been able to speak to her.

Concern over the issue bubbled up internally over the weekend to the point that Buzbee scheduled three “town hall” meetings on Monday, done so AP journalists in New York headquarters and more than 250 locations worldwide could either attend or call in on a videoconference line. Beyond the initial episode, the discussion expanded to take on issues of racial sensitivity involving the AP’s overall journalism, and with AP workplaces themselves.

“This is a very important issue for the AP, and it’s bigger than a bad mistake on one photo,” said Gary Pruitt, president and CEO of the AP, who attended the first meeting. “Our values are to cover the world—not the white world,

but the whole world. And we need to do it.”

Pruitt said in an interview that he continues to have “complete confidence” in the AP’s news management.

Buzbee said it was important to emphasize that it was “everyone’s responsibility” at the AP—not just members of underrepresented groups—to be sensitive to issues of inclusion and to be sure the reporting reflects that. The AP already has diversity training in the works for staff members in the United States this year; Buzbee said staff members all over the world will be given such training.

The AP is also challenging editors in different regions to set goals for making its journalism more inclusive, she said.

No disciplinary actions against the journalists involved have been announced.

SAO PAULO (AP)—Kobe Bryant and Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho were working together on a children's book, but the author of "The Alchemist" said he deleted the draft after Bryant's death in a helicopter crash.

The 72-year-old novelist told The Associated Press on Monday that the two men started discussing the project in 2016, when Bryant retired after a 20-year NBA career. They began writing a few months ago.

Within hours of hearing of

Ricky Martin finds inspiration

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Ricky Martin's wide smile began to fade as the Puerto Rican superstar talked about his next album.

It's influenced by the U.S. territory's political turmoil as people struggle to recover from Hurricane Maria and a recent 6.4 magnitude earthquake that killed one person and destroyed hundreds of homes amid a 13-year recession.

"I'm going to use my music to carry the message of all those who aren't being heard," he told The Associated Press on Monday while preparing for a concert on his native island.

The 48-year-old father of four children joined in the big demonstrations last year that led Ricardo Rosselló to resign as the island's governor, and although he hasn't been at the most recent protests against current Gov. Wanda Vázquez, he has gone on social media urging her to step down.

"It would be an act of justice for our island," he said in a video Thursday. "There are no immediate legal mechanisms for you and your entire team to leave and pay for all our suffering. But I have good news. The elections come in November and I am certain, certain, that the people will rise up more than ever."

Author deletes children's book co-written with Kobe Bryant

Bryant's death Sunday, Coelho announced that he would delete the draft, rather than finish the book without the 41-year-old five-time NBA champion.

"I deleted the draft because it didn't make any sense to publish without him," Coelho said by phone on Monday from his home in Geneva. "It wouldn't add anything rel-

evant to him or his family.

"That doesn't stop me from writing someday about things I learned from Kobe and how much of a larger-than-life person he was," Coelho said. "But the children's book did not make sense anymore."

Coelho's decision disappointed many of Bryant's fans, who flooded the writer's social media channels asking for the draft not to be erased.

Bryant was a fan of Coelho's and called "The Alchemist" his favorite book. He recommended it to everyone from former teammate Kyrie Irving to Rob Pelinka, his former agent who now runs the Lakers' basketball operations.

Pelinka read a passage from the book before a news



Coelho

conference in July 2018 shortly after the Lakers signed LeBron James, who was photographed reading "The Alchemist" before a shootaround in the 2018 Eastern Conference finals when he played for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Coelho, who has sold tens of millions of books, said the

idea behind his collaboration with Bryant was to inspire underprivileged children to overcome adversity through sports.

"Kobe was always very concerned about making a book that was a positive example for children, especially those coming from humble beginnings," Coelho said.

Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna also died in the crash, along with seven others. Bryant has three other daughters.

The book project was very casual. After not communicating for several months, Bryant sent a message to Coelho in August, saying "Let's right that book together." He then texted the correct spelling of "write."

Washington Post places reporter on leave after Bryant tweet

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Post has placed a political reporter on administrative leave after she tweeted a link to a story about rape allegations against NBA superstar Kobe Bryant, who was killed Sunday. Dozens of journalists at the newspaper criticized the decision.

Reporter Felicia Sonmez's tweet Sunday, amid widespread public mourning over Bryant's death in a helicopter crash, drew considerable backlash on social media. The

Post reported that Sonmez received threats of death and rape and had to move to a hotel after her home address was published online.

The Post said Sonmez deleted the original tweet at the request of a managing editor. She also received an email from executive editor Marty Baron saying: "A real lack of judgment to tweet this. Please stop. You're hurting this institution by doing this." Sonmez shared the email with an Associated Press reporter.

The Post said Sonmez had been placed on paid leave while newsroom managers look into the episode. A spokeswoman for the newspaper did not respond to questions about Baron's role.

Members of the Washington Post Newspaper Guild protested Sonmez's suspension. They also noted that Sonmez had "received an onslaught of violent messages" and "has gotten insufficient guidance from the Post on how to protect herself."

"We understand the hours after Bryant's death Sunday were a fraught time to share reporting about past accusations of sexual assault," Guild members wrote. "The loss of such a beloved figure, and of so many other lives, is a tragedy. But we believe it is our responsibility as a news organization to tell the public the whole truth as we know it—about figures and institutions both popular and unpopular, at moments timely and untimely."

Nicki Minaj's brother sentenced to 25 years to life

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—The brother of rapper Nicki Minaj was sentenced Monday to 25 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl at his Long Island home.

A judge convicted Jelani Maraj of predatory sexual assault and child endangerment in November 2017. The victim testified during the trial

that Maraj repeatedly raped her in 2015 while her mother was at work.

Prosecutors have said DNA evidence recovered from the girl's pajama pants was linked to Maraj. The girl's younger brother also testified at the trial that he



Maraj

witnessed one assault.

Maraj's attorney appealed conviction in 2018, claiming that there was jury misconduct. The judge ruled in October that the defense did not meet the necessary burden of proof.

Maraj said in court Monday

that he had an alcohol problem and asked for a "second chance." One of his attorneys said he suffered from health issues including hypertension, gout and anemia and requested the minimum sentence of 10 years to life.

Maraj's appellate attorney, Stephen Scaring, said he plans to appeal the judge's decision.

In his fiancée's eyes, man's secret life online is cheating

DEAR ABBY: After a long relationship, "Eric" and I plan on getting married very soon. My problem is, Eric is secretive. He keeps his phone right next to him, and before he walks into the house, he sits in his car, clearing his history. I know he looks at porn, and I'm not happy about it, but it's the other things I'm angry and confused about.

He secretly has social media. I know he's been sending pictures of himself to women, and they send pictures to him. Isn't that cheating? I think secret phone and video calls to women is cheating. I saw an image of a woman's private parts on his phone, and he told me lies about it. When I have confronted him about chatting with the other women, he gets angry and withdraws. One woman even sent me their chat history, and he lied about that, too.

Abby, I love my man, but I feel he's cheating. I don't know what else to do as there's a wedding soon.

DESPERATE FOR ANSWERS

DEAR DESPERATE: I have sad news for you. Eric isn't "your" man. From your description, you are sharing him with heaven only knows how many others. You already know he has a problem with the truth. When you tried to do something about it, he became emotionally abusive. This is what your future will be if you marry him.

I have only three words of advice for you, and I sincerely

hope you will take them to heart: **CANCEL THE WEDDING!**

DEAR ABBY: How do you know if a friend is actually a "frenemy"? I think my friend "Gwen" may be one.

I successfully started a second career and was doing well, but Gwen had no interest in hearing about it. She also announced her engagement on my wedding day, which diverted attention away from me on my special day.

I went through a difficult time because several family members passed away, and Gwen was neither supportive nor particularly sympathetic. Her lack of response made things even harder for me. I no longer feel like I can share my successes about saving money or getting raises, because this "friend" would be threatened by it. I almost felt Gwen was happy when I was struggling, because it made her better than I was.

Is it OK to let people go? Is this a real friend?

FRIEND OR FOE IN CALIFORNIA

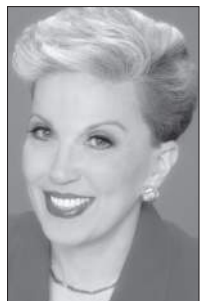
DEAR F. OR F.: Gwen appears to have neither good judgment nor empathy. If those are qualities you value in a friend, my advice is to look elsewhere. Friends celebrate their friends' successes and reach out to offer comfort when they suffer losses. It is not only OK to let people like Gwen drift away, but it is also healthy.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor has a 17-year-old daughter.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Fifteen weekdays a month she and a boy from school come home for 30 to 50 minutes during the noon hour. (Five days a month she comes home by herself.) Her mom and dad are both at work. Do you think her parents should know about the "nooners" at their house?

NOSY NEIGHBOR IN NORTH CAROLINA

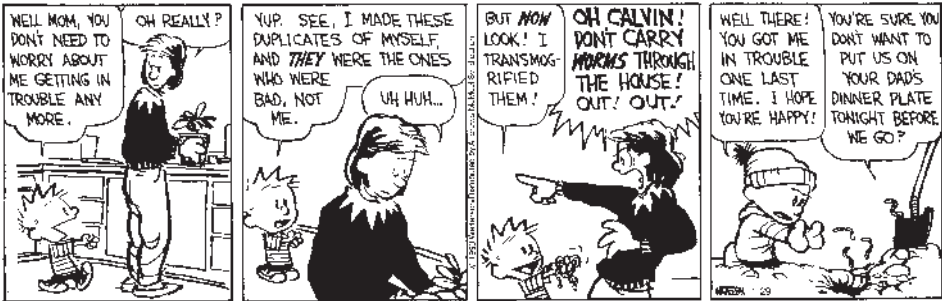
DEAR NEIGHBOR: Yes, I do think you should casually ask if they are aware of it. However, when you do, make sure not to sound accusatory or judgmental—just "curious."

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Apr. ad-dressee

4 Mouth part

7 Mailbox feature

8 Emanations

10 Hotel offering

11 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"

13 War-ending pacts

16 Do sums

17 Gets ready, briefly

18 Aunt, in Acapulco

19 Out of the storm

20 Hen pen

21 Curses

23 India's first prime minister

25 Houston acronym

26 Emmy-winning actress

27 Nile reptile

28 Vinegar bottle

30 Fourth-yr. students

33 One's share, as in a fortune

36 Carve, as a statue

37 Labor group

38 Kilmer poem

39 Poses

40 Ton fractions (Abbr.)

41 Asner and Harris

DOWN

1 Trojan War story

2 Campus mil. group

3 Church topper

4 Minty quaff

5 Locales

6 Long for

7 Took to court

8 Concur

9 Newspaper chief

10 Resort

12 Vowel group

14 "— chic!"

15 Enervate

19 Literary collection

20 "Evita" narrator

21 Foundation

22 Phase

23 Russian refusal

24 Get excited

25 Snooze

26 Clumps of grass

28 VIP on the red carpet

29 Lassos

30 Barbecue rods

31 Ocho —, Jamaica

32 Capitol VIP

34 Ringlet

35 Wife of Geraint

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Gilbert, 45; Heather Graham, 50; Oprah Winfrey, 66; Tom Selleck, 75.

Happy Birthday: Control will be required to take the edge off anxiety. A settled mind will help fight against making impulsive decisions that can lead to mistakes, insult or injury. Channel your energy wisely, and the world will be yours; make a fuss, and you'll achieve little. Optimize your chance to advance using precision and detail to flourish. Your numbers are 9, 17, 23, 28, 30, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep life simple and moving forward. Refuse to let what others do influence you or lead to emotional, financial or physical excess. Put time and energy into whatever will benefit you the most. Use your intellect to win your battles. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make changes that are in your best interest. Watch what others do, and refuse to get pulled into something that is all hype and no action. Have a plan in mind, and you will exceed your expectations. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Chitchat, consider your options and contribute to something that you find worthwhile. Refuse to let anyone mess with your emotions, lead you astray or take what's rightfully yours. Plan to win, and you will outsmart the competition. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An emotional matter will consume you if you aren't careful. Put concerns in perspective, realize success is your best revenge, and don't waste time on people or situations that are

not worth your while. Focus on peace and love, not creating chaos. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep moving. Idle time is the enemy. Line up the people who enjoy the same things you do, and make plans to do something that will bring results and keep you out of trouble. Make smart decisions. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't leave anything to chance. Changes you make at home will not please everyone. Don't let an emotional situation end up costing you financially. Change can be useful, but it has to be done for the right reason and be within budget. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get out and about. Spend time with people who share your beliefs and opinions, and you will discover information that will help you expand on a plan or idea you want to pursue. Don't let someone negative discourage you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Getting out of your typical environment will be enlightening. Sharing space with someone who is working toward a similar goal or lifestyle will be encouraging. Personal growth, love and peace of mind are within reach. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Use your intelligence, knowledge and experience to bypass someone who is trying to lead you astray. Know in your heart what you want, and make adjustments that will ward off temptation and promote personal gain. Let go of the past. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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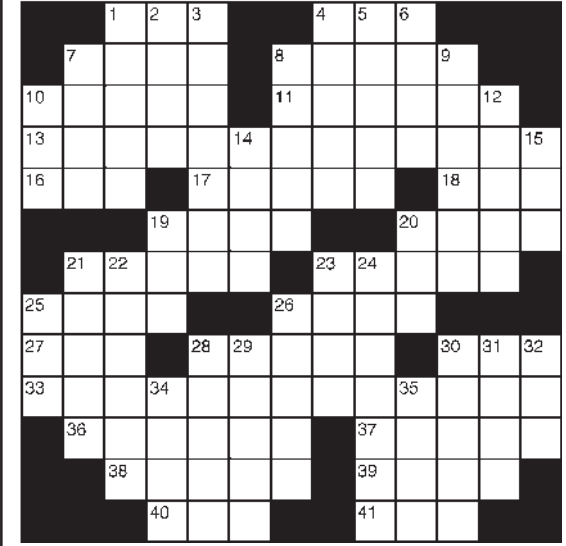
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share what you have, what you know and what you want to pursue with someone you love. A change at home will end up being much better than anticipated. Don't fight the inevitable. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be direct, precise and willing to do the work to get results. A simple approach to whatever you do will help you keep your costs down and leave more time to add small but essential details. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll benefit the most if you work alone. Interference is the enemy, and argumentative people will leave you in limbo regarding how to move forward. Keep your financial and personal matters private and your opinions and feelings to yourself. ***

Birthday Baby: You are smart, trendy and perceptive. You are relentless and curious.

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	6	5	4	8	9	3	1	2
8	2	1	3	6	5	4	9	7
9	3	4	2	1	7	8	6	5
2	5	9	6	7	4	1	8	3
3	8	6	1	9	2	7	5	4
4	1	7	8	5	3	6	2	9
6	7	2	5	4	8	9	3	1
1	4	3	9	2	6	5	7	8
5	9	8	7	3	1	2	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★

1/29

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ANT CONTROL

Solution: 9 letters

C S R E T T U G E F A S S Y T
C E M A N U F A C T U R E R S
T L T A S R O O D T U O I E O
N O O E K L L A M S O O C T C
E H D V R I A L T G O D E S L
L P N O E M R X I R P N P A I
L E I R R S I P A H A I S M M
E E F E R S E N A R T P E H O
P W V N N S G R I P O N S C N
E O O E T E A H T X O B A T E
R R I E G O O U E F I R E A N
R K T U H M R M S K C A R C E
A E A Q E T N A N I M I L E S
I R P G R O U N D S K N I S T
D S S E N K R E C R O F N E S

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Anthill, Borax, Catch Master, Cloves, Cost, Cracks, ElimAnt, Enforcer, Find, Fire, Goody, Ground, Gutters, Home, Humane, Indoors, Kness, Limonene, Manufacturers, Nests, Odors, Orange Guard, Outdoors, Paprika, Patio, Pest, Pharaoh, Queen, Raid, Repellent, Rover, Safe, Sinks, Small, Species, Terminix, Terro, Traps, Weep Holes, Workers

Yesterday's Answer: Helmet

Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS



NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
DONGHUI KENGXINDUN CORP

Notice is hereby given that DONGHUI KENGXINDUN CORP., a corporation established in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be dissolved effective immediately. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

DONGHUI KENGXINDUN CORP.
PMB 488 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required by law will forever be barred.

Contact Person:
Rongkun Xiao
Secretary

TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, ESQ.
Law Office of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
JET Realty Building, Suite 204
P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 323-2115
Email: timothy@bellaslawfirm.com
ATTORNEY FOR: Petitioner, Francisco LG. Aldan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 19-0363

IN RE THE
ESTATE OF
URSULA I.
LIFOIFOI-ALDAN

NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

I. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 6th day of February 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Saipan Business Plaza, second floor or such other location as the court may designate, Petitioner, FRANCISCO LG. ALDAN, will petition the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on Saipan, to be appointed as Administratrix of the Estate of URSULA I. LIFOIFOI-ALDAN, decedent, when and where all persons interested in said Estate may appear and object to said appointment.

2. Notice is also hereby given to all creditors, heirs and any person having any interest in or claim against the Estate of URSULA I. LIFOIFOI-ALDAN, deceased, to file any claim they may have with the Commonwealth Superior Court or with Timothy H. Bellas, attorney for Petitioner, at P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950, within sixty (60) days after the date of first publication of this Notice, in accordance with the Order of the Court.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

WHATZIT Solution: Bulletin board

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Classified Ads

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Lakers' next game postponed after Kobe's death



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA has postponed the Los Angeles Lakers' next game against the Clippers on Tuesday night after the deaths of retired superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others in a helicopter crash.

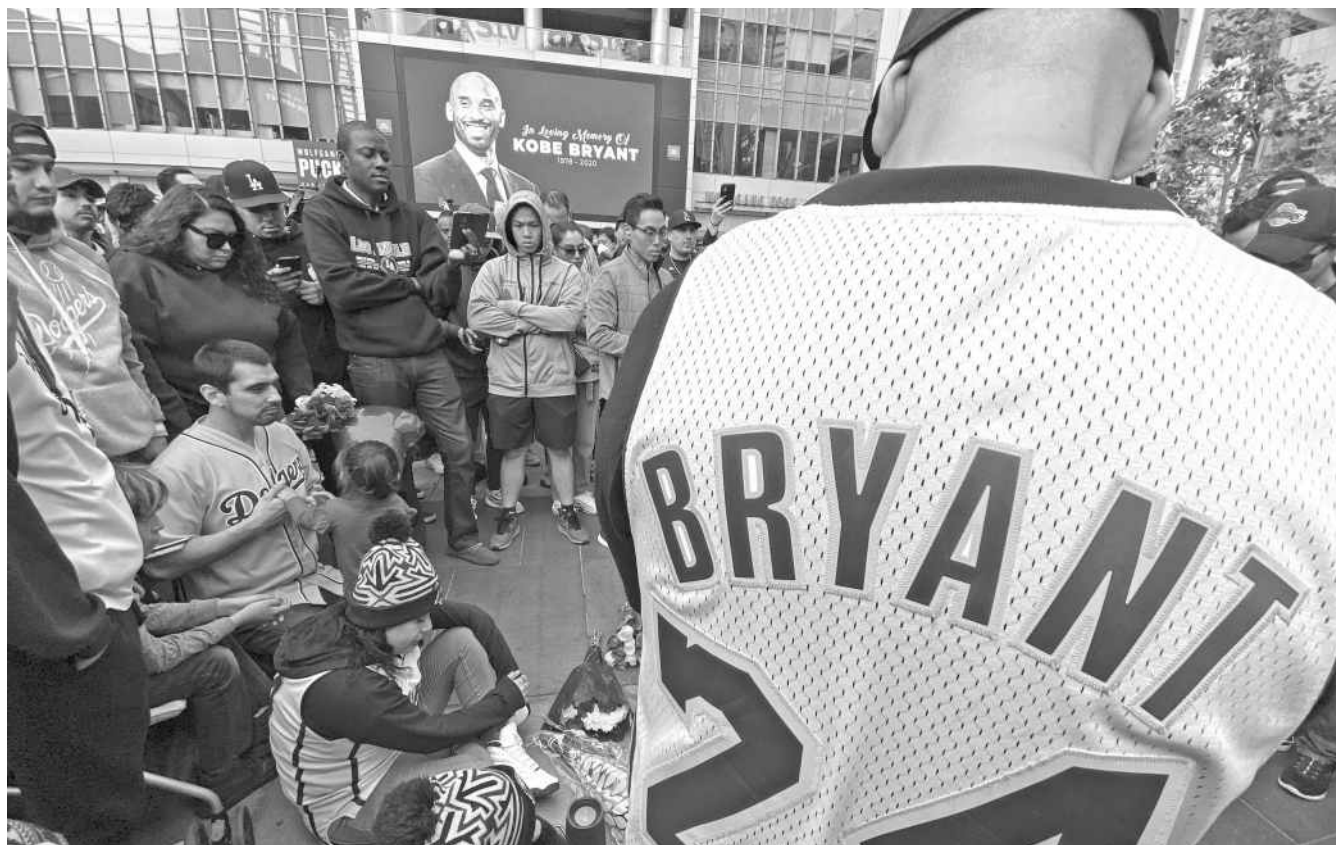
The league announced the decision in a statement Monday, saying it "was made out of respect for the Lakers organization."

The Lakers learned about the crash while flying home from an East Coast road trip Sunday. LeBron James and several other players appeared to be visibly affected by the news when they got off the plane.

James made his first public comments Monday night in an Instagram post including several photos of himself with Bryant. The four-time NBA MVP and 16-time All-Star said he was "heartbroken and devastated," and had been crying repeatedly while trying to write about Bryant.

James, who joined the Lakers last season, said the two spoke by phone Sunday morning after James passed Bryant for third place on the NBA's career scoring list Saturday night.

"Didn't think for one bit in a



million years that would be the last conversation we'd have," James wrote. "I promise you I'll continue your legacy man! You mean so much to us all here especially (hashtag)LakerNation and it's my responsibility to put this (team) on my back and keep it going!! Please give me the strength

from the heavens above and watch over me!"

The Lakers made grief counselors available to employees Monday after the loss of Bryant, who spent his entire 20-year NBA career with the 16-time NBA champion franchise.

Lakers owner Jeanie Buss was quite close to Bryant, and

Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka was Bryant's agent during his playing career.

"The Los Angeles Lakers would like to thank all of you for the tremendous outpouring of support and condolences," the Lakers organization said in a statement after the postponement was announced. "This is a

very difficult time for all of us."

Dwight Howard is the only current Lakers player who played with Bryant for the franchise for one season back in 2012-13, but the players all knew him. James and Bryant teamed up on the U.S. Olympic teams in 2008 and 2012, and Anthony Davis played a

Fans mourn the loss of Kobe Bryant with makeshift memorials in front of La Live across from Staples Center, home of the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.

backup role on that 2012 London Olympics team.

Bryant had attended a handful of Lakers games in recent years with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, who also died in the crash in Calabasas, California.

The NBA says the game between the Los Angeles rivals will be rescheduled later.

The next game on the Lakers' schedule is Friday night at home against Portland.

The Lakers lead the Western Conference standings and have the NBA's second-best record at 36-10. After trading for Davis and teaming him with James in the offseason, the Lakers are all but certain to end their franchise-record playoff drought at six seasons.

Bryant won five championships and reached seven NBA Finals during his two decades with the Lakers. He retired as the franchise's career leader in points, games played and numerous other statistical categories.

CALABASAS, Calif.

(AP)—The pilot of the helicopter that crashed near Los Angeles, killing former NBA superstar Kobe Bryant and eight others, told air traffic controllers in his last radio message that he was climbing to avoid a cloud layer before plunging more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) into a hillside, an accident investigator said.

Radar indicated the helicopter reached a height of 2,300 feet (701 meters) Sunday morning before descending, and the wreckage was found at 1,085 feet (331 meters), Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board said during a news conference Monday afternoon.

NTSB investigators went to the crash site in Calabasas on Monday to collect evidence.

"The debris field is pretty extensive," Homendy said.

"A piece of the tail is down the hill," she said. "The fuselage is on the other side of that hill. And then the main rotor is about 100 yards (91 meters) beyond that."

Some experts suggested that the pilot might have gotten disoriented because of fog but Homendy said investigating teams would look at everything from the pilot's history to the engines.

"We look at man, machine and the environment," she said. "And weather is just a

Kobe helicopter tried to climb to avoid clouds before crash

small portion of that."

The pilot had asked for and received special clearance to fly in heavy fog just minutes before the crash and was flying at 1,400 feet (427 meters) when he went south and then west, Homendy said.

The pilot then asked for air traffic controllers to provide "flight following" radar assistance but was told the craft was too low for that assistance, Homendy said.

About four minutes later, "the pilot advised they were climbing to avoid a cloud layer," she said. "When ATC asked what the pilot planned to do, there was no reply. Radar data indicates the helicopter climbed to 2,300 feet (701 meters) and then began a left descending turn. Last radar contact was around 9:45 a.m."

Two minutes later, someone on the ground called 911 to report the crash.

Randy Waldman, a helicopter flight instructor who teaches at the nearby Van Nuys airport, said a disoriented pilot might have only moments to avoid a fatal dive.

"If you're flying visually, if you get caught in a situation where you can't see out the windshield, the life expectancy of the pilot and the aircraft is maybe 10, 15 seconds, and it happens all the time, and it's really a shame," Waldman said.

Some experts raised questions of whether the helicopter should have even been flying. The weather was so foggy that the Los Angeles Police Department and the county sheriff's department had grounded their own choppers.

The Sikorsky S-76 killed the retired athlete along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and everyone else aboard and scattering debris over an area the size of a football field.

Crews recovered three bodies on Sunday and resumed the effort on Monday amid an outpouring of grief and shock around the world over the loss of the basketball great who helped lead the Los Angeles Lakers to five NBA titles during his dazzling 20-year career.

The pilot was identified as Ara Zobayan. He was the chief pilot for Island Express Helicopters, the aircraft's owner, the company said in a statement.

"Ara has been with the company for over 10 years and has over 8,000 flight hours," the company said, adding that it was working closely with the NTSB to investigate the crash.

Zobayan was commercially certified as a pilot and certified as a flight instructor, Homendy said.

Several aviation experts

said it is not uncommon for helicopter pilots to be given such permission, though some thought it unusual that it would be granted in airspace as busy as that over Los Angeles.

But Kurt Deetz, who flew for Bryant dozens of times in the same chopper that went down, said permission is often granted in the area.

"It happened all the time in the winter months in LA," Deetz said. "You get fog."

The helicopter left Santa Ana in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, shortly after 9 a.m., heading north and then west. Bryant was believed to be headed for his youth sports academy in nearby Thousand Oaks, which was holding a basketball tournament Sunday in which Bryant's daughter, known as Gigi, was competing.

Air traffic controllers noted poor visibility around Burbank to the north and Van Nuys to the northwest. At one point, the controllers instructed the chopper to circle because of other planes in the area before proceeding.

The aircraft crashed about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. When it struck the ground, it was flying at about 184 mph (296 kph) and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute, according to data from Flight-

radar24.

Waldman said the same thing happened to John F. Kennedy Jr. when his plane dropped out of the sky near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in 1999.

"A lot of times somebody who's doing it for a living is pressured to get their client to where they have to go," Waldman said. "They take chances that maybe they shouldn't take."

Bryant had been known since his playing days for taking helicopters instead of braving the notoriously snarled Los Angeles traffic. "I'm not going into LA without the Mamba chopper," he joked on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in 2018, referring to his own nickname, Black Mamba.

David Hoepfner, an expert on helicopter design, said he won't fly on helicopters.

"Part of it is the way they certify and design these things," said Hoepfner, a retired engineering professor at the University of Utah. "But the other part is helicopter pilots often fly in conditions where they shouldn't be flying."

Jerry Kidrick, a retired Army colonel who flew helicopters in Iraq and now teaches at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, said the helicopter's rapid climb and fast

descent suggest the pilot was disoriented.

When that happens, he said, pilots must instantly switch from visual cues to flying the aircraft using only the machine's instruments.

"It's one of the most dangerous conditions you can be in," Kidrick said. "Often-times, your body is telling you something different than what the instruments are telling you. You can feel like you're leaning to the left or the right when you're not. If the pilot isn't trained well enough to believe the instruments, you get in a panic situation."

On Sunday, firefighters hiked in with medical equipment and hoses, and medical personnel rappelled to the site from a helicopter. About 20 investigators were on the site early Monday. The Los Angeles County medical examiner, Dr. Jonathan Lucas, said it could take at least a couple of days to recover the remains.

Among those killed in the crash were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team; his wife, Keri; and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter; and Christina Mauser, a girls' basketball coach at a Southern California elementary school.

50 years later, Chiefs relishing current Super Bowl run

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Fifty years later, Jan Stenerud still remembers just about every detail from the Super Bowl.

The longtime Kansas City Chiefs kicker remembers that they were almost two-touch-down underdogs to the Minnesota Vikings, whose fearsome defense line carried the nickname “The Purple People Eaters.”

He remembers that the weather wasn’t very good in New Orleans, and that the week leading up to the game was spent listening to tornado sirens.

The tarp used to cover the field at Tulane Stadium was filled with holes, leaving patches of the turf a muddy quagmire.

“When we had to kick extra points,” Stenerud recalled, “I told our coach, Hank Stram, that we had to move the ball to the side a bit because there was a big mud hole where I wanted to kick from. It was a real mess.”

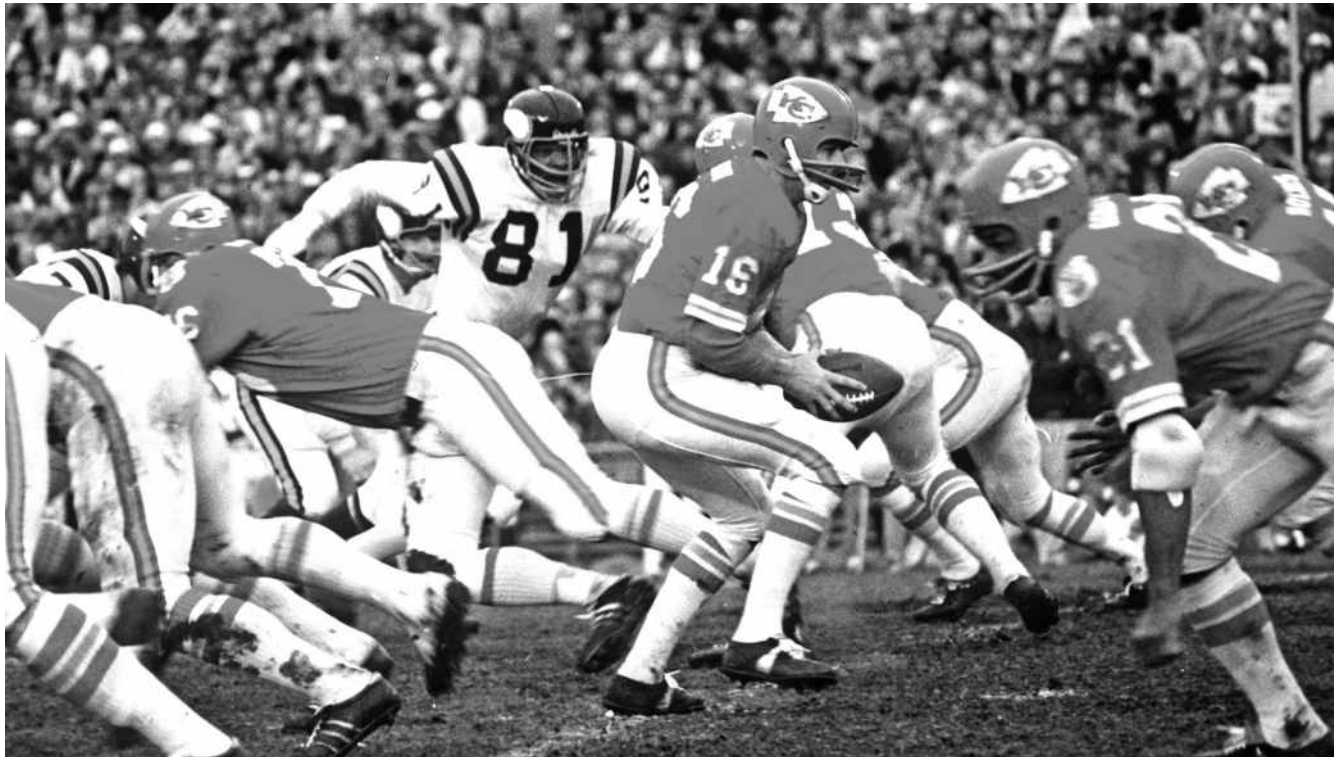
More than anything else, though, the Hall of Fame kicker remembers never once thinking that it would take one of the original AFL franchises a full five decades before it returned to the championship game.

“How could you?” said Stenerud, who also was a member of the team that lost to the Green Bay Packers in the first Super Bowl. “No, I never thought about it. It’s a long time. For me, it doesn’t seem as long as it does for young people. You think about the next game — ‘Let me play.’ You don’t think about history at the time.”

As the Chiefs prepare to play the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Stenerud finds himself reflecting on history quite a bit these days. So many of his good friends and close teammates never lived to see the team return to the championship game, and many others are in failing health. Stram died 15 years ago this summer, and the team’s beloved founder Lamar Hunt passed away the following year. Thousands of fans lived their entire lives without seeing the Chiefs in a Super Bowl.

Only the Lions and the Jets have played more seasons since they appeared in the championship game.

“To lose a Super Bowl is devastating. You have to explain that forever,” Stenerud told The Associated Press this week. “When we won the game, there was one guy who kept bugging me about the warm-up jacket I had on. It turned out the guy was Pat O’Brien, who had played Knute Rockne in ‘Knute Rockne, All American.’ I just remember the total, total elation when you win, and I also remember that I was thrilled



AP
In this Jan. 11, 1970, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson (16) turns around to hand the ball off to running back Mike Garrett (21) during the Super Bowl IV football game in New Orleans.

as could be, and I remember all the people who had taken a chance on us.”

By the 1969 season, the Chiefs had a roster filled with veterans — quarterback Len Dawson, tight end Fred Arbanas and offensive lineman Ed Budde — who chose to play in the AFL when it was largely considered a second-tier league. Many of the players had followed the franchise from Dallas, where it was known as the Texans.

They played with a chip on their shoulder, both because they lost that initial Super

Bowl and because nobody expected them to win three years later. They were the underdogs when they went to New York to play the reigning champion Jets, and they had lost twice to Oakland in the regular season before beating the Raiders to reach the Super Bowl.

It was no surprise that the Chiefs were such heavy underdogs against the Vikings, who were led by coach Bud Grant and their ferocious defense.

They had mowed through their schedule and beaten the Rams and the Browns, giving

them the chance to play the Chiefs for the final championship before the AFL and NFL officially became one.

“Nobody gave us a chance,” Dawson told The AP a few years ago, when he stepped away from the broadcast booth after a long second career with the Chiefs. “Everybody thought the Vikings were going to win.”

But the Chiefs were playing their best football of the season down the stretch, in part because Dawson was finally healthy after

missing several games with a knee injury. Third-string quarterback Mike Livingston had kept them afloat by leading the Chiefs on a five-game win streak, but Dawson’s return not only marked the return of one of football’s best quarterbacks but also instilled in the team a profound sense of confidence that it could beat anybody.

For his part, Dawson took it upon himself to shoulder the burden of finally delivering a title. His longtime roommate, Johnny Robinson, told The AP after the Super Bowl that



Tribute for Kobe Bryant kicks off Super Bowl media night

MIAMI (AP)—Chants of “Kobe! Kobe! Kobe!” broke a moment of a silence that kicked off a more subdued Super Bowl media night.

The NFL opened the most hyped week in professional sports with mixed emotions Monday night, one day after retired superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others died in a helicopter crash in California.

The Kansas City Chiefs took the stage first on what typically is a wild evening filled with zany antics by quasi-media members. One television reporter wearing a short, white dress and sailor’s cap asked a few players to do the Floss dance with her but the atmosphere was mostly deflated.

Fans of the Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers made some noise. Still, it seemed there were more media than fans in the seats at Marlins Park, making it look a lot like a baseball game in the middle of summer than the NFL’s annual version of a music festival.

Players tried to soak in the excitement of their first trip — for many — to the Super Bowl while struggling with the news of Bryant’s death.

“I wasn’t lucky enough

to get to meet Kobe,” Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. “But the impact that he made in my life, it was huge. The way he was able to go about every single day, when I was a kid, and the work ethic and the intensity that he had to be great every single day.”

“Even to this day, I still watch videos on YouTube the day before games and just listen to him talk and how he puts everything in perspective of being great on and off the field with his kids, and his business ventures and then, obviously, his play. It’s a tragic thing. Prayers to his family, but he made a huge impact in my life, for sure.”

Mahomes was the one who broke the news to teammate Tyreek Hill on the team’s flight to Miami.

“It was like, ‘Man do you believe this?’ And I was just like waking up. So I was like ‘Dude, I don’t want to see that right now,’” Hill said. “He was like ‘Dude, wake up, wake up, wake up!’ and I saw it. I was like, ‘No, I don’t believe it because you know you see stuff online and it be like fake ... especially someone like that. Man, that’s Kobe man. He’s a role model. He’s

a GOAT. You don’t expect nothing like that. Someone who has as much money as him, as much fame as him, to go down the way he did him and his family. I don’t know, bro. I just hate talking about stuff like that personally man because sad you know.”

Richard Sherman, the Niners’ five-time Pro Bowl cornerback, had a personal relationship with Bryant. They spoke soon after Sherman tore his Achilles tendon in November 2017 with Bryant sharing advice on his recovery from the injury.

“He was a competitor, I think that’s the best word,” Sherman said. “He was one of the most unique people I have had the honor to have met.”

Asked what Bryant’s message to him this week would’ve been, Sherman said: “He would have told me to push forward. I have tried to apply a lot of the parts of his game to mine. I believe I have done that. His aggressiveness, ability to finish, understanding of the game. His cerebral approach, even in his older age, I think I have tried to do that in my game, too.”

Chiefs coach Andy Reid knew Bryant from his years

coaching the Philadelphia Eagles. Bryant went to high school in a Philly suburb and had a love-hate relationship with fans in the city because he played for the Los Angeles Lakers. But he was a die-hard Eagles fan and his reaction on social media after the team won its first Super Bowl title two years ago endeared him to many. The city mourned his loss as one of its own.

“It’s sad,” Reid said. “A great person, man. I feel bad for his family, sick for his family. They’ll rebound. They’re strong. They’ll live up to his strength.”

Niners running back Raheem Mostert called Bryant “a transcendent man, a true legend.”

Reid is the seventh coach in league history to lead two teams to the Super Bowl. His Eagles lost to the New England Patriots 15 years ago.

The Chiefs are making their first appearance in the NFL title game in 50 years, seeking their second championship.

The 49ers are going for their sixth win in seven trips. Their only loss came against Baltimore in their previous appearance seven years ago.

Dawson had “aged five years this week.”

“You looked into his face,” Robinson recalled, “and you knew it wasn’t the same Len Dawson.”

Much of the anxiety dissipated by halftime, though. Mike Garrett ran for a touchdown and Stenerud kicked three first-half field goals to send Kansas City into the locker room with a 16-0 lead.

The Vikings finally scored late in the third quarter, but Dawson answered with a 46-yard touchdown pass that all but put the game away. The quarterback who had put so much pressure on himself wound up being the MVP.

“I can’t take any credit,” Dawson said afterward. “It was the team, not me. They were fired up. They were ready.”

Dawson and many of the Chiefs from that championship team remain close to the organization, returning for anniversaries and other celebrations. Nine members of the team eventually made it into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Dawson made it as both a quarterback and broadcaster — Dan Dierdorf and Frank Gifford are the only others so honored.

When the Chiefs beat the Tennessee Titans in the AFC championship game to end their long and maddening Super Bowl drought, it was Hall of Fame linebacker Bobby Bell who stood on the stage as part of the trophy presentation.

“It was great to have Bobby up there. He’s special,” current Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. “They had some great talent there on that football team, and it was obvious by the championship. He’s around, as a lot of players are. We encourage that. I like having the guys here. They bring great history and energy to the guys. They’ve got a fellowship with the young guys and educate them on how great the city is and so on. It’s fun to have them here.”

Maybe that’s true. But it’s more fun to give them a long-awaited trip back to the Super Bowl.

“It’s been tremendously exciting,” Stenerud said. “You know, the offense, it’s so much speed and you have a phenomenal quarterback. It’s really exciting to watch, obviously. The defense is coming on and playing great football. They have good special teams. It looks like a real solid football team to me.”

Federer saves match points in Australian Open QF

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer was not going to go gently, of course, no matter how daunting the number of match points -- his opponent accumulated seven! -- no matter how achy his 38-year-old legs, no matter how slow his serves, no matter how off-target his groundstrokes.

Federer still plays for the love of these stages and circumstances. Still yearns for more trophies, too. Down to his very last gasp, time and again, against someone a decade younger, 100th-ranked Tennys Sandgren of the United States, Federer somehow pulled off a memorable comeback to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the 15th time.

Despite all sorts of signs he was not quite himself for much of the match, Federer beat the biceps-bearing, hard-hitting, court-covering Sandgren 6-3, 2-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3 on Tuesday in a rollicking quarterfinal that appeared to be over long before it truly was.

"As the match went on, I started to feel better again and all the pressure went away," 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer said afterward. "I don't deserve this one, but I'm standing here and I'm obviously very, very happy."

Federer was involved in a dispute with the chair umpire over cursing. Left the court for a medical timeout early in the third set, then was visited by a trainer later for a right leg massage.

And, above all, found himself in a tense tussle with Sandgren, a 28-year-old from Tennessee who's never been a major semifinalist and was trying to become the lowest-ranked man in the Australian Open's final four since Patrick McEnroe—John's younger brother—was No.



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after defeating Tennys Sandgren of the U.S. in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020. AP

114 in 1991.

Oh, how close Sandgren came to the monumental upset.

After rolling through the second and third sets as Federer's serves dropped from an average of 112 mph to 105 mph and his unforced errors totaled 30, Sandgren led 5-4 in the fourth set. With Federer serving, Sandgren had a trio of opportunities to end things and

complete a career-defining victory. On the first, Sandgren dumped a backhand into the net. On the second, he pushed a forehand wide. On the third, another forehand found the net.

On they went to a tiebreaker, which included the bizarre sight of a ballkid running

into Sandgren's right calf at the 3-all changeover. Didn't seem to bother the guy, though, because he grabbed the next three points to put himself a single point from winning.

But Sandgren failed to close the deal at 6-3 ... or at 6-4 ... or at 6-5 ... or at 7-6.

"Got to get lucky sometimes, I'll tell you that," Federer said. "Because in those seven match points, you're not under control."

On Federer's own second chance to take that set and force a fifth, Sandgren hit a ball that landed near the baseline. Federer thought it might be out -- he turned to look at a line judge for a call that never

came—yet barely flicked it back in a defensive manner, and Sandgren's overhead smash went long.

Federer wagged his right index finger overhead—the universal sign for "I'm No. 1!"—and was on the right path. He ended the victory with a service winner at 119 mph, a little more than an hour after first staring down defeat.



Barty goes on at Australian Open, sets up semifinal vs. Kenin

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Ash Barty is a step closer to ending a four-decade drought for Aussies at the national championship.

Top-ranked Barty saved set points in the 11th game and another in the tiebreaker before seizing the momentum against two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in a 7-6 (6), 6-2 quarterfinal win at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The so-called Barty Party in 2019 ended in a quarterfinal loss to Kvitova. The start of a new decade is cause for a bigger celebration at Melbourne Park.

Barty next faces Sofia Kenin, who reached the semifinals at a major for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 78-ranked Ons Jabeur.

In a first set that lasted al-

most 70 minutes, Barty fended off eight of the nine break-point chances she faced before finally getting the upper hand when she won a 22-shot rally, defending for much of it just to stay in the point, at 3-2 down in the tiebreaker.

"I was run ragged on that point — I just remember trying to stay alive. I knew it was a big one. It was more survival mode than anything else."

She went on a roll to take a 4-0 lead in the second and take all the momentum away from Kvitova, who beat her here in the quarterfinals last year before losing the final to Naomi Osaka.

Barty rebounded from that to win her first major title at the French Open, where she beat Kenin in the fourth

round. Until she arrived in Australia, Kenin's run at Roland Garros — which included a third-round upset over Serena Williams — was her best at a Grand Slam.

There's a lot of local expectation riding on Barty, who is aiming to be the first Australian woman since Chris O'Neil in 1978 to win the Australian Open. The first major of the decade may see the end of the 42-year wait, and an Australian man hasn't won since 1976. Barty is already the first Australian woman since 1984 to reach the semifinals of the home Open.

Barty doesn't expect to feel the pressure. She won her first title on home soil in Adelaide in the lead-up to this season's first major.

"I'm not going to have anything but a smile on my face when I walk out onto this court," she said.

Kenin and Jabeur were both into the quarterfinals for the first time at a major.

For Kenin, who was born in Moscow but moved to the United States as a baby and grew up in Florida, the degree of difficulty will only increase.

"I'm excited. Of course, she's playing at her home, so it's a little bit different," Kenin said. "I played a lot of big names. I don't think I've played anyone big in their home crowd. It's going to be a different atmosphere obviously. But it's exciting. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kenin is playing her best tennis, too. Her best previous

run at Melbourne Park ended in the second round, when she lost to Simona Halep last year.

She finished last year ranked 14th, and although she's 1-4 in career meetings she was able to match Barty in one category: they were tied for most hard-court wins on the women's tour last year with 38 wins each.

Kenin's run here included a comeback win in the third round against 15-year-old Coco Gauff, when she made only nine unforced errors across the second and third sets.

In the second set against Jabeur, she saved three break points in a long sixth game, then broke serve in the seventh game to set up the win.

"It was a tough moment," Kenin said. "I didn't know it

was 10 minutes (but) it was pretty long, the game. After that I got my momentum."

Jabeur, a 25-year-old Tunisian, was the first Arab woman to make it to the last eight at a major.

"I think I proved that I can be in the quarterfinals in a Grand Slam, even if I have a lot of things to improve probably physically and mentally," she said. "But I'm happy that I pushed through a lot of things. I proved to myself that I could do a lot of great things."

In later men's quarterfinals, 20-time major winner Roger Federer was playing 100th-ranked Tennys Sandgren, and seven-time Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic had a night match against Milos Raonic of Canada.

Adebayo's triple-double lifts Heat past Magic, 113-92



MIAMI (AP)—Bam Adebayo never got a chance to meet Kobe Bryant. He was hoping it would come at this year's All-Star Game.

Coaches might be sending Adebayo there.

Adebayo got his third triple-double of the season in his last opportunity to impress Eastern Conference All-Star voters. Duncan Robinson scored 21 points and the Miami Heat eased past the Orlando Magic 113-92 on Monday night.

"It was about honoring Kobe," Adebayo said. "I felt like I had the 'Mamba Mentality' tonight. ... I never got to meet him but he's here in spirit."

Adebayo finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. He's a candidate to be a reserve selection for the All-Star Game; coaches pick those teams, and their ballots are due at the NBA office on Tuesday for an announcement on Thursday.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra doesn't lobby colleagues to sway their vote.

"Maybe that's wrong," Spoelstra said. "I don't feel comfortable doing that. ... Your play should speak louder than anything else and I feel at the core of my heart that Bam's play has made him an All-Star and our winning should also be proof of that."

Jimmy Butler scored 19 points, Goran Dragic had 14 and Tyler Herro scored 13 for Miami. The Heat improved to 13-0 at home against Eastern Conference teams.

Nikola Vucevic had 13 points and 12 rebounds for Orlando. Aaron Gordon scored 12 points, Markelle Fultz had 12 and Terrence Ross had 11 for Orlando.



"Our starters got badly outplayed to start the game and got crushed to start the third quarter," Magic coach Steve Clifford said. "To me that was the biggest factor."

Mavericks 107, Thunder 97

In Oklahoma City, Luka Doncic had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 107-97 Monday on a night that included several tributes to

Kobe Bryant.

Thunder guard Chris Paul sat out for personal reasons a night after Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greats, was killed in a helicopter crash in Southern California.

Dennis Schroder scored 21 for the Thunder.

Rockets 126, Jazz 117

In Salt Lake City, Eric Gordon scored a career-high 50 points to lead short-handed Houston over Utah despite playing without James Harden and

Russell Westbrook.

Danuel House Jr. added 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Austin Rivers also had 21 points as the Rockets handed the Jazz their first home loss since Dec. 9.

Gordon became the first Rockets player besides Harden to score 50 points in a game since Hakeem Olajuwon had 51 in January 1996, according to STATS. Harden has done it 23 times since then.

Donovan Mitchell scored 36 points and Bojan Bogda-

ad backed him up with 13 of his own to the now 3-4 team.

Blue Eagles A+ Consultant 73 — De Guzman 26, Schmidt 11, Basa 9, Demapan 6, Manalo 6, Lizama 4, Ashburn 4, Libuw 3, Barbo 2.

GSM Hoopaholics 71 — DeLeon Guerrero 16, Lauron 12, Cadiang 11, Manibusan 10, Aughenbaugh 10, Mendez 4, Cabrera 2, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 33-28, 53-47-73-71.

Shirley's Coffee Shop 109 — Pelisamen 19, Aranda 16, Flores 16, Jugos 16, Diaz 10, Mendiola 8, Duenas 6, Sablan 5, Verder 5, Lifofoi 4, Palma 2.

Team Lakay 79 — Williams 21, Capalad 13, Bernardo 12, Cabrera 11, Reyes 8, Lumen 4, Galulu 4, Solis 2, Macaraeg 2, Alegre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 38-21, 66-48, 86-66, 109-79.

AP
Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo (13) shoots as Orlando Magic guard D.J. Augustin (14) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, in Miami.

novic added 30, but Utah lost for just the third time in 22 games despite shooting 51% from the field.

Bulls 110, Spurs 109

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, including two clutch foul shots with 2.1 seconds left, and Chicago edged San Antonio.

LaVine won an entertaining duel with DeMar DeRozan after the Bulls trailed by 10 heading into the final period. DeRozan tied it at 108 on a tough fadeaway jumper with 8.6 seconds left, but LaVine responded with two free throws after he was fouled by Jakob Poetl on a drive to the basket.

San Antonio had one last chance, and DeRozan was fouled by Kris Dunn on a long jumper with 0.2 seconds to go. DeRozan made the first, missed the second and grabbed the rebound, but was unable to get a shot off before time expired.

WANG

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first two rounds.

After getting a bye in the first round, Kim dominated her second round pairing against Seiyul Hong, 4-1, 4-1. Chung also got a bye in the first round before dispatching Savita Sikkell in the next round in an identical score of 4-1, 4-1.

The first day of the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament was supposed to start last Saturday, but heavy rains postponed the competition until Sunday. The rest of the pairings in the boys U18, boys

WEIGHTLIFTING

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to the Oceania [Weightlifting Championships] in April of this year."

Labausa bagged three gold medals during the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap back in 2018, while San Nicolas brought home a bronze medal in the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu in 2017. Barnhouse won a bronze in the Guam Weightlifting Open Championship in 2019.

Davis is asking the business community's help to raise funds to send Labausa, San Nicolas, and Barnhouse to Nauru. "We could certainly use

DeRozan had 36 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs. Patty Mills made six 3-pointers and finished with 25 points.

Cavaliers 115, Pistons 100

In Detroit, Kevin Love scored all 20 of his points in the first half and Cleveland beat Detroit to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Love, an Olympic teammate of Kobe Bryant's who played college basketball in Los Angeles at UCLA, made six 3-pointers before halftime. It was the first game for either team since Bryant's death Sunday in a helicopter crash.

Kings 133, Timberwolves 129, OT

In Minneapolis, Buddy Hield scored a career-high 42 points to help Sacramento rally from a 27-point deficit for an overtime victory against skidding Minnesota.

De'Aaron Fox scored 22 for the Kings, putting back the rebound of his intentionally missed free throw as part of a 33-11 run over the final 5:42 of regulation.

Andrew Wiggins had 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Timberwolves, who lost their 10th consecutive game.

U16, boys U12, girls U12, and girls U14 will be played next weekend. The results of the U18 doubles and U12 doubles will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan International School student council is organizing the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament. It is being held to fundraise for the school's many activities, including prom. SIS student and CNMI junior national player Malika Miyawaki is coordinating the entire tournament with the help of CNMI national tennis coach and sports hall of famer Jeff Race.

some community assistance in our effort to send these athletes to represent the CNMI," he said.

The weightlifting federation officials also thanked Latte Built Center owner Derek Cutting for allowing them to use the facility for training.

"At this time anyone interested in being a competitive weightlifter can find lifters\ athletes at Latte Built Fitness Center in Susupe. Though we are still looking, the federation still does not have a home, but at Latte Built has been very supportive," he said.

For more information on this Saturday's tournament and the weightlifting in general, call Davis at 789-9211.

BLUE

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In the third, Walter Mendez and Aughenbaugh made contributions on the offensive end, as Hoopaholics didn't allow Blue Eagles to get too far away and they only faced a 6-point deficit, 47-53, heading into the final 10 minutes of the exciting contest. De Guzman did some heavy lifting for Blue Eagles in the third canto, as he exploded for 14 points.

Hoopaholics rallied at the start of the fourth and actually grabbed the lead, 55-53, after Alex Lauron shot 2-2 from the free throw line. Their lead, however, proved short-lived as Schmidt hit a floater, De Guzman got away with another soaring fastbreak layup, and Geno Libuw connected on a rare 3-pointer as Blue Eagles opened a 60-55 spread with time down to 6:03 in the ballgame.

Hoopaholics continued to shadow Blue Eagles in the next few minutes with both teams exchanging baskets. Aughenbaugh then gave Hoopaholics a 1-point lead, 67-66, with a barreling drive with time down to 2:07.

Schmidt would go 2-2 from the stripe in the next possession, but Aughenbaugh would answer with two free throws of his own to make it 69-68 in favor of Hoopaholics. Preston Basa would then fire a booming triple to give Blue Eagles a 71-69 lead with 1:31 left in the game.

Aughenbaugh's free throws would tie it all up again at 71-all with 1:02 left on the clock when he was fouled by Lizama. An exchange of turnovers and missed shots later, De Guzman freed himself for the aforementioned uncontested layup that notched the final score.

De Guzman was hailed best player of the game with his game-high 26 points, while

Schmidt was the only double-figure scorer for the now 5-0 Blue Eagles with 11 markers.

Hoopaholics, which dropped to 3-4, was led by the 16 points of Shane DeLeon Guerrero, while Lauron and Melvin Cadiang chipped in 12 and 11 points, respectively, in the loss.

In the second open division game of the evening Freddie Pelisamen rekindled some of his old scoring touch to lead Shirley's Coffee Shop to a 109-79 romp of Team Lakay.

Pelisamen scored a team-high 19 points to pace Shirley's Coffee Shop, which also drew 16 points apiece from Jack Aranda, John Jugos, and Gerald Flores. The win allowed the team to improve to 6-3 in the team standings.

Richard Williams continued to be a burly inside presence for Team Lakay as he paced them in the loss with a game-high 21 points. Melvin Capal-



Lakers' next game postponed after Kobe's death

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50 years later, Chiefs relishing current Super Bowl run
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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Eagles nip Hoops to stay perfect



MARK RABAGO
Blue Eagles A+ Consultant's Jaymark De Guzman soars for a layup in their open division matchup against GSM Hoopaholics in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Eagles A+ Consultant remained undefeated in the open division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after avoiding the upset axe against GSM Hoopaholics last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



High-flying swingman Jaymark De Guzman broke a 71-all tie with a fastbreak layup with 7.2 seconds left in the cardiac game to give Blue Eagles a 73-71 lead, an advantage it would hold on to after Hoopaholics' Eli Aughenbaugh missed a floater from 12 feet and both teams scrambled for the rebound as time expired.

It was a fitting end to a nip-and-tuck ballgame that saw both teams ignite scoring runs with neither really getting complete control of their matchup.

Douglas Schmidt and Manolo Manalo combined for 11 points in the first quarter, as Blue Eagles eked out a 15-14 lead. It was Jack Lizama and De Guzman's turn to lead Blue Eagles in the second, as the duo tossed 4 points apiece that allowed their team to open a more comfortable 33-28 spread at the half.

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Weightlifting tourney this Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold its first weightlifting tournament of the year this Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Dubbed simply as the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament, the competition promises to have the most contestants the sports association has ever had in any of its previous tournaments.

"We have 17 participating athletes, 15 men in six weight categories and two women in two weight categories. They will all be competing as seniors (15 years and older)," according to CNMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis.

The Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament will be a snatch and

clean and jerk competition.

The Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament begins with a weigh-in at 9am and lifting will commence at 11am. Admission is \$10 per participant.



The event will be the federation's kickoff event of the year. Davis said the CNMI

Weightlifting Federation also hopes to send Antonette Labausa and two other weightlifters to the Oceania Weightlifting Championships in Nauru.

Labausa has been training in Samoa since the beginning of this year and will train there until after the regional championship in the next couple of months.

"We hope to send a small team consisting of Antonette, Angel San Nicolas, and David Barnhouse

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Wang, Chung face off in next round of girls U12



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hoo Wang and Erin Chung arranged a third round matchup in the girls U12 singles division of the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament held last Sunday at the American Memorial Park and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Wang had an auspicious debut in the tournament after blanking Hannah Chae in the opening round, 4-0, 4-0. She followed that up with an equally impressive 4-1, 4-0 victory against Anna Kwon. Kwon

MARK RABAGO

Hoo Wang returns a shot against Anna Kwon in their girls U12 singles division match in the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

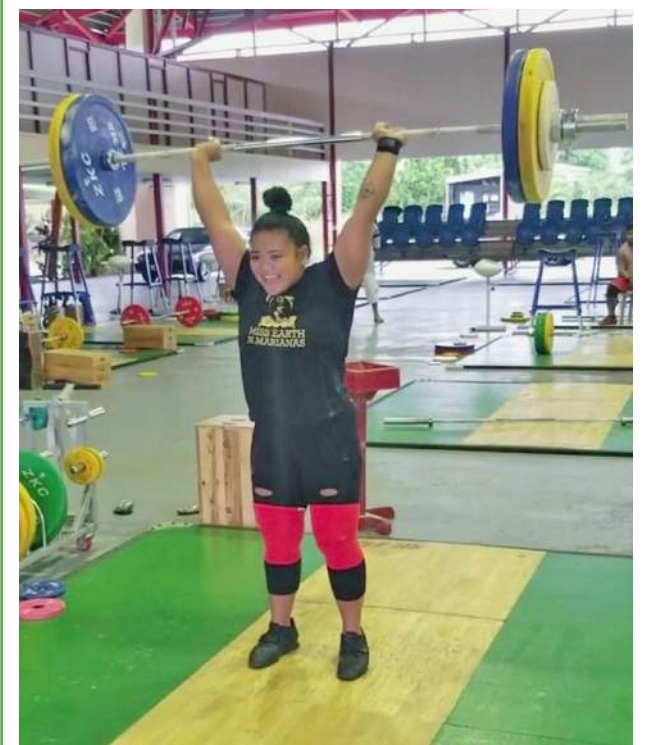
earlier beat Jeong Bin Park, 4-0, 4-0, in the first round.

Chung had an easier time in the first round after Isa Nishitani defaulted their opening round matchup. She then went up against Lina Tsukagoshi in the second round and advanced with a 4-0, 4-0 sweep. Tsukagoshi eased into the second round with a 4-1, 4-0 triumph against Anne Lee.

In the loser's bracket of the girls U12 division, Lee bounced back with a 4-0, 4-0 win over Nishitani, while Chae got the better of Park, 4-0, 4-1. Both will contest the loser's bracket finals next weekend.

In the girls U14 singles division, Helen Kim and Serin Chung arranged a third round showdown after going through similar paths in the

See WANG on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three-time gold medalist Antonette Labausa in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap in action in a recent tournament.